

Witness: Richard Robert

Page 1

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

ENBRIDGE ENERGY COMPANY,)
INC. AND ENBRIDGE MIDCOAST)
ENERGY, L.P. f/k/a)
ENBRIDGE MIDCOAST ENERGY,)
INC. f/k/a MIDCOAST ENERGY)
RESOURCES, INC.,)
Plaintiffs,)
vs.)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Defendant.)

CASE NO. H-06-0657

ORAL DEPOSITION

RICHARD ROBERT

February 1, 2007

ORAL DEPOSITION OF RICHARD ROBERT, produced as a witness at the instance of the Defendant and duly sworn, was taken in the above-styled and numbered cause on the 1st day of February, 2007, from 9:50 a.m. to 3:03 p.m., before Laraine L. Toliver, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, reported by computerized stenotype machine at the offices of Vinson & Elkins, LLP, 1001 Fannin Street, Conference Room 2500B, Houston, Texas 77010, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the provisions stated on the record or attached hereto.

HUNDT REPORTING
214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

Page 2			Page 4		
1	2	APPEARANCES	1	2	EXHIBITS (cont.)
3	FOR PLAINTIFF:		2	EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION PAGE
4	Karl S. Stern, Esq.		3	23	8/25/99 letter, W. Keith Buchanan, Bank of America, to 57
5	Emily W. Pipkin, Esq.		4		Richard Robert
6	Vinson & Elkins, LLP		5	24	8/30/99 redline draft of 58
7	1001 Fannin Street, Suite 2300		6		Agreement and Plan of Merger
8	Houston, Texas 77002-6760		7		between Midcoast Energy
9	Telephone: 713.758.3828		8		Resources, Inc. and The Bishop
10	Fax: 713.615.5603		9		Group, Ltd. and Dennis
11	E-mail: kstern@velaw.com; epipkin@velaw.com		10		M.Langley
12	FOR DEFENDANT:		11	25	8/30/99 offer letter, Dan Tutcher to Vean Gregg, Chase 59
13	David B. Coffin, Esq.		12		Securities
14	United States Department of Justice		13	26	8/30/99 fax, Craig Hoffman to 62
15	Tax Division, Southwestern Civil Trial Section		14		Bruce Snyder, Tom Palmisano,
16	717 North Harwood, Suite 400		15		with attached information about
17	Dallas, Texas 75201		16	160	Fortrend
18	Telephone: 214.880.9749		17		12/14/99 draft memorandum, Gary Wilcox, Catherine Coffey, PWC, 69
19	Fax: 214.880.9741		18		to Midcoast File
20	FOR DEFENDANT:		19	27	Handwritten notes from 9/6/99 75
21	Kevin G. Croke, Esq.		20		conversation
22	Internal Revenue Service		21	28	Deal Point Sheet, M.C. Ruby, 76
23	160 Spear Street, 9th Floor		22		Attorney/Client Privilege
24	San Francisco, California 94105		23		Confidential
25	Telephone: 415.227.5125		24		
	Fax: 415.227.5159		25		
	E-mail: Kevin.G.Croke@IRSCOUNSEL.TREAS.GOV				
	ALSO PRESENT:				
	Jana Jordan, Director, US Tax Services				
	Enbridge Energy Company, Inc.				
Page 3			Page 5		
1	2	INDEX	1	2	EXHIBITS (cont.)
3		PAGE	3	37	9/12/99 e-mail, Becky David of 82
4	RICHARD ROBERT		4		Bryan Cave, LLP, to Thoma J.
5	Examination by Mr. Coffin	8	5		Palmisano, with attached
6	Signature Page	153	6	40	redlined Stock Purchase
7	Court Reporter's Certificate	154	7		Agreement
8	EXHIBITS		8	41	"Break-Even Alternatives" 83
9			9		spreadsheet
10	EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	10		9/20/99 fax, Craig Hoffman to 84
11	1	Black binder labeled "Sale of 28	11	42	Chris Kaitson, with attached
12		the Partnership Interests in	12		confidentiality agreement,
13		Kansas Pipeline Company, K-Pipe	13	43	draft LOI, and Summary of Major
14		(Seller) and Midcoast Energy	14		Corporate transactions since
15		Resources (Buyer), November 9,	15	44	1990
16		1999	16		9/20/99 letter, Craig Hoffman 85
17			17		to Richard Robert, Re:
18		5/8/99 letter, Thomas J. 46	18	45	Confidentiality
19		Palmisano to Richard Robert	19		"Break-Even Alternatives" 88
20		6/16/99 letter, Vean J. Gregg 51	20	46	spreadsheet
21		III to Bill Bray, with attached	21	47	"Project Evaluation Data - 89
22		description of Project Ruby	22		Capitalize All Input Data"
23		6/21/99 letter, Bill Mamas to 52	23	48	spreadsheets
24		Bill Bray	24	49	"Calculation of Make Whole Cost 90
25			25	50	Sharing" document
	9.1	7/21/99 letter, Dan Tutcher to 52		51	Kansas Pipeline Company 94
		Bill Manias, Chase Securities			Disclosure Statement,
	10	Kansas Pipeline Company 53			Depreciation Difference,
		Management Discussion, August			Carryover Basis vs. Purchased
		1999			Basis spreadsheet
	20	8/11/99 Midcoast Energy 54		66	9/30/99 letter, K-Pipe Holdings 99
		Resources, Inc. Board of			Partners, LP, to Dan Tutcher,
		Directors Meeting Minutes		70	Midcoast
					10/7/99 Midcoast Energy 99
					Resources, Inc. Board of
					Directors Meeting Minutes

2 (Pages 2 to 5)

HUNDT REPORTING
214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

			Page 6	Page 8
1	EXHIBIT	EXHIBITS (cont.)		
2	DESCRIPTION	PAGE		
3	76	10/14/99 fax, Ronald L. Chachere to Jim Pryde, Esq., with attached Stock Purchase Agreement	101	
4				
5	77	10/19/99 e-mail, Richard Robert to Barry Davis, Stephanie Pendleton, Thomas Palmisano, Patrick Delaney, Subject: New Events Memo	105	
6				
7	78	10/21/99 letter, Dennis M. Langley to Jeff Furman Appendix 8, Meeting Rabobank International Credit Committee dated 10/29/99	106	
8	10	E-mail string, 10/30/99, Re: KPC Documents	135	
9	96			
10	12	100	107	
11				
12	105	10/31/99 e-mail, Gary B. Wilcox to Chris Kaitson, et al, Subject: KPC; Document Modifications	112	
13	16	E-mail string between Gary Wilcox and Richard Robert and Chris Kaitson, Subject: KPC Option Agreement Changes	113	
14				
15	109	11/3/99 e-mail string between Chris Kaitson, Cynthia Morelli, Thoma Palmisano, Graham Taylor, Richard Robert, Ron Chachere, Subject: PWC issues	114	
16				
17	115	11/5/99 engagement letter, PWC to Richard Robert, Midcoast Energy Resources, Inc.	114	
18				
19	23	130	121	
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
			Page 7	Page 9
1	EXHIBIT	EXHIBITS (cont.)		
2	DESCRIPTION	PAGE		
3	145	11/8/99 letter, Larry J. Austin, K-Pipe Group, Inc., to Rabobank, Chris Kortlandt	123	
4				
5	150	11/19/99 invoice of Ronald L. Chachere	95	
6				
7	160	12/14/99 draft memorandum, Gary Wilcox, Catherine Coffey, PWC, to Midcoast File	69	
8				
9	186	1/18/01 e-mail, Stephanie B. O'Neil and Robert H. Whitten, PWC, to WNTS, Subject: IRS warning on "intermediary transactions" Notice 2001-16	139	
10				
11	187	E-mail string between PWC internally and Richard Robert, Subject: Midcoast Energy - Disclosure Requirement for Midco Transaction	142	
12				
13	189	2/20/01 memo, Gary Wilcox and Bob Whitten, PWC, to Midcoast Tax Files, Subject: Tax Statement Disclosure Statement	145	
14				
15	17	195	148	
16				
17				
18				
19	196	PWC to Midcoast Energy Resources, Inc. opinion letter effective 12/31/99	147	
20				
21	198	9/24/01 letter, Gary B. Wilcox, PWC, to Richard Robert	146	
22				
23	201	Handwritten PWC notes	127	
24				
25				

3 (Pages 6 to 9)

HUNDT REPORTING
214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 Q. Prior to that, where were you employed? 2 A. I owned an interest in a few businesses that I 3 started. 4 Q. You may need to speak up just a little bit so 5 she can hear you. 6 A. All right. 7 Q. You own an interest in a few businesses that 8 you started? 9 A. Yes, sir. 10 Q. Okay. What kind of businesses are those? 11 A. One is Vintage Ventures, which is a retail wine 12 store, wine bar/restaurant. We have two locations in 13 Houston. 14 Q. Are those still open? 15 A. Yes. 16 Another is Custom Living Properties. 17 Q. Custom -- 18 A. Custom Living Properties -- 19 Q. Uh-huh. 20 A. -- which is a residential home construction 21 business. And the third is Lifewear Products, which is 22 a distributor of disposable products, principally 23 medical gloves. 24 Q. Okay. And are those thriving businesses? 25 A. Depends how you define thriving, but yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 A. A little bit for Midcoast, but principally 2 my -- my principal consulting job was for Massey Energy, 3 which is a coal company in Richmond, Virginia. I helped 4 them with financing, about five months. 5 Q. And under what circumstances did you leave 6 Enbridge Midcoast in June 2002? 7 A. What do you mean by circumstances? 8 Q. Did you leave willingly? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Okay. And why did you leave? 11 A. A variety of reasons, principally wanting a 12 break. 13 Q. Did you leave under good terms with the 14 company? 15 A. I believe so. 16 Q. Do you currently have any kind of a contractual 17 severance or pension plan or any kind of payment that 18 Midcoast may be paying to you or will pay to you in the 19 future? 20 A. I did receive a severance payment when I -- 21 when I left. 22 Q. In a lump sum? 23 A. In a lump sum. 24 Q. But nothing -- there's no current right to 25 receive anything?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 Q. Are they still -- are they still interests that 2 you currently are operating? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Okay. I assume you're operating them. You 5 said they're your ventures or your interests? 6 A. Yeah, I have partners in each. 7 Q. And -- and you were employed by Midcoast, 8 Enbridge Midcoast at some point in time; is that 9 correct? 10 A. That's correct. 11 Q. Okay. And so I'm just trying to fill in the 12 gaps quickly. When did you cease being employed with 13 Enbridge Midcoast? And I assume what you did after that 14 was open these businesses; is that correct? 15 A. As well as have some fun, yes. 16 Q. Okay. 17 A. I believe it was June of 2002 that I stopped 18 being employed. 19 Q. Okay. 20 A. Or July, end of June. 21 Q. Okay. 22 A. And -- and then I had -- I did some consulting, 23 little bit of consulting, and then I started my 24 businesses. 25 Q. Consulting for Midcoast or other businesses?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 A. No. I received health benefits. That expired 2 about a year or more ago, or -- yeah, about a year. 3 Q. What are your current responsibilities with 4 NAMI Holdings? 5 A. We are in the process of -- of doing an S-1 6 filing. A portion of the company is going public. 7 Q. Where did you -- were you brought in 8 specifically to assist with that? 9 A. Uh-huh, yes. 10 Q. Okay. And in addition, you're going to remain 11 on as CFO after the company goes public? 12 A. I have a three-year employment agreement. 13 Q. Three-year. Give me your educational history, 14 beginning with where you graduated from high school. 15 A. I graduated from high school from George S. 16 Henry in Toronto, Canada. 17 Q. What year was that? 18 A. '84. 19 Q. Okay. 20 A. Then I attended Southwest Texas State 21 University in San Marcos, Texas, also in '84. 22 Q. What brought you to Texas from Toronto? 23 A. Tennis scholarship. 24 Q. Tennis? 25 A. Uh-huh.</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 Q. Okay. And you graduated there in what year? 2 A. 1988. 3 Q. With an accounting degree? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Any formal education after that? 6 A. No. 7 Q. And I assume you went to work in 1988? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. For whom did you work? 10 A. Arthur Andersen. 11 Q. Which office? 12 A. Houston. 13 Q. Were you in audit or tax? 14 A. Audit. 15 Q. How long were you with Arthur Andersen? 16 A. A little over three years. 17 Q. Did you do any tax work at that time? 18 A. No. 19 Q. So you were primarily assisting with financial 20 statement audits of other companies? 21 A. That's correct. 22 Q. Okay. Who were some of your clients, if you 23 recall? 24 A. American Exploration Company, Texaco. I did 25 some work with Enron.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 Q. Okay. Controller? 2 A. My title was controller when I started. 3 Q. Okay. Did you eventually reach the title of 4 CFO? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. When did that happen? 7 A. When we went public or -- well, when we did a 8 filing in 1996. 9 Q. Did the company go public in 1996? 10 A. Well, it was -- we were pink sheeted, so we 11 were technically public, but... 12 Q. What does pink sheeted mean? 13 A. Just over the -- over-the-counter trading. But 14 we raised our first batch of capital in 1996. 15 Q. And then did -- when does it -- was there a 16 progression eventually that Midcoast was traded over 17 the -- over the -- 18 A. Yeah, we listed on American -- the American 19 Exchange. 20 Q. When did that happen? 21 A. '96. 22 Q. Okay. So, in 1996, you became CFO. And how -- 23 tell me the progression of the accounting department 24 from 1992 to 1996 of Midcoast. 25 A. Initially, I did virtually everything.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 Q. And when you left in -- was that '91 you would 2 have left Arthur Andersen? 3 A. '92. 4 Q. '92, okay. Where did you go to work then? 5 A. Midcoast. 6 Q. What lured you to Midcoast from Arthur 7 Andersen? 8 A. A partner at Arthur Andersen approached me with 9 the potential of working for Midcoast. They were in 10 need of a CFO-type person, controller-type person, 11 and -- 12 Q. What was your title at Andersen when you left 13 in 1992? 14 A. I was a senior. 15 Q. Was Midcoast a small company at the time? 16 A. Very small. 17 Q. I think I read in your interview that you were 18 the only accounting person at the time; is that right? 19 A. I was essentially the first employee. 20 Q. First employee? 21 A. (Witness nods) 22 Q. And then tell me how -- I assume you were -- 23 you were the CFO. You were the accounting department, 24 basically? 25 A. I was the controller.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 Q. You did the -- all the -- 2 A. I did all the -- 3 Q. You booked all the transactions? 4 A. -- the bookkeeping, all the payroll. I did -- 5 you know, just anything that needed to be done, I did 6 it. 7 Q. Did you prepare tax returns at the time for 8 Midcoast? 9 A. I -- I did, yes. I believe I did. 10 Q. From at least 1992 to 1996? 11 A. No, I didn't do it for that long. 12 Q. Okay. 13 A. I don't believe. I mean, at some point we had 14 our auditors step in and do it. 15 Q. That would have been Price Waterhouse Coopers? 16 A. No, it was Hein & Associates initially. 17 Q. Hein? 18 A. Hein, H-E-I-N. 19 Q. Just a small local CPA firm? 20 A. Regional. 21 Q. Regional? 22 A. Yeah. 23 Q. Okay. And they were doing the financial 24 statement audits -- 25 A. Uh-huh.</p>

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

HUNDT REPORTING
214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 Q. -- at the time? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Okay. Was that sufficient to -- were they a 4 large enough firm to allow you to attempt the public 5 or -- strike that. 6 Were they a large enough firm that the FCC 7 allowed to audit the company? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Okay. And then eventually that firm was 10 replaced by Price Waterhouse? 11 A. Correct. 12 Q. Or Coopers & Lybrand? 13 A. It was -- 14 Q. PWC? Was it PWC by then? 15 A. Yeah, I think at the -- I think by the time 16 that we engaged them, they were PWC. 17 Q. All right. And what year would that have been? 18 A. I can't recall specifically. It was '97, '98 19 time frame. 20 Q. Okay. Were you involved in the decision to 21 bring -- to replace Hein & Associates with PWC? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Do you recall why you made that decision? 24 A. We had just gotten to a point where we had kind 25 of outgrown Hein's -- I don't know if you would call it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 Q. At least in '99? 2 A. I wasn't a board member. 3 Q. Oh, you weren't a board member, but you 4 attended the board meetings? 5 A. Yes, I did. 6 Q. Are you a -- you are a CPA, correct? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. And you still maintain your license? 9 A. I do. 10 Q. When did you pass the CPA exam? 11 A. In 1993, I believe. 12 Q. In one sitting? 13 A. Two. 14 Q. Do you have any other licenses or professional 15 accreditations? 16 A. No. 17 Q. Okay. Have you reviewed anything to prepare 18 for this deposition? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. What did you review? 21 A. A variety of documents. It was my -- that's 22 right, it was my interview from last time that I 23 reviewed. 24 Q. With the IRS? 25 A. Yes.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 expertise, but, you know, I think there came a time when 2 everyone became more comfortable going to a larger firm, 3 whether it be our bankers or, you know -- 4 Q. Management? 5 A. -- management, board of directors, yes, sir. 6 Q. Who was management beginning in '92? 7 A. Dan Tutcher. 8 Q. He was the president? 9 A. Yes. Chip Berthelot. 10 Q. What was his title? 11 A. Ultimately, it was chief operating officer. 12 Q. Okay. 13 A. And myself and -- 14 Q. Who actually hired you? 15 A. Dan. The three -- there were three principals. 16 Dan owned 50 percent and then another entity comprised 17 of Steve, Stevens Herbst and Kenneth Holmes were the 18 other two 25 percent owners. So I met with the three of 19 them on a few occasions. 20 Q. And did you -- who did you report to beginning 21 in '92? 22 A. Dan Tutcher. 23 Q. I see in some of the minutes to the meetings 24 that you were on the board? 25 A. I was not.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 Q. And you -- you reviewed that? 2 A. I did. 3 Q. And only that? 4 A. I've seen a few documents as well. 5 Q. Did -- Mr. Stern does not -- 6 MR. COFFIN: You don't represent 7 Mr. Robert, do you, individually? 8 MR. STERN: I represent him as a former 9 employee of the company. 10 MR. COFFIN: Okay. 11 MR. STERN: In his capacity as former 12 employee of the company. 13 MR. COFFIN: Okay. 14 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Did you review any documents 15 provided by Mr. Stern? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Okay. How many hours did you spend looking at 18 documents and getting ready for the deposition? 19 A. Two hours. 20 Q. Have you always reported to Mr. Tutcher -- or 21 Tutcher? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. And let's see. You became CFO in '96; is that 24 correct? 25 A. Correct.</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 Q. And then did you -- did your title ever change 2 after that?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. You remained as such until June of '02?</p> <p>5 A. Well, no. When Enbridge acquired Midcoast, my 6 title changed to vice president of finance, I believe.</p> <p>7 Q. Did somebody take over the role that you had 8 had as CFO?</p> <p>9 A. Well, Enbridge had a CFO in Calgary --</p> <p>10 Q. Okay.</p> <p>11 A. -- and so they didn't -- they didn't have -- 12 they didn't need two CFOs.</p> <p>13 Q. You didn't maintain becoming a CFO or maintain 14 your role as CFO of Midcoast?</p> <p>15 A. My responsibilities didn't change, but my title 16 did, for the most part.</p> <p>17 Q. From your -- from the beginning of your 18 employment in 1992 through 1999, do you recall how many 19 acquisitions Midcoast would have been involved in, as 20 far as purchasing companies or assets?</p> <p>21 A. Companies or assets?</p> <p>22 Q. Right, uh-huh.</p> <p>23 A. I'd venture to guess between 20 and 30.</p> <p>24 Q. Do you know if -- or could you break down how 25 many would be asset purchases and how many would be</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 Q. Okay. Do you recall dollar-wise how -- what 2 would the largest have been before that, the largest 3 acquisition?</p> <p>4 A. I believe the AlaTenn acquisition was probably 5 the only other -- the second largest, at about 6 40 million.</p> <p>7 Q. Ala --</p> <p>8 A. AlaTenn.</p> <p>9 Q. Spell that.</p> <p>10 A. Alabama Tennessee.</p> <p>11 Q. Spell that one again for me.</p> <p>12 A. A-L-A-T-E-N-N.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay.</p> <p>14 A. Which stood for Alabama Tennessee Natural Gas 15 Company.</p> <p>16 Q. When did that acquisition occur?</p> <p>17 A. I can't --</p> <p>18 Q. Would it have been before or after the intent 19 to go public?</p> <p>20 A. It was after.</p> <p>21 Q. After '96?</p> <p>22 A. Yeah.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 A. It was probably '97, I believe.</p> <p>25 Q. Was that an asset purchase or a stock purchase?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 stock purchases?</p> <p>2 A. No. I mean, I really --</p> <p>3 Q. Was there a preference either way?</p> <p>4 A. Oh, yeah. We always preferred to purchase 5 assets.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay. Can you say whether a majority would 7 have been asset purchases or stock purchases?</p> <p>8 A. I mean, without refreshing my memory on all the 9 different transactions we did, I mean, I really couldn't 10 say.</p> <p>11 Q. Why was the asset purchase preferred?</p> <p>12 A. A variety of reasons. Liability issues when 13 you're buying stock, you know, unknown liabilities in 14 particular, you know, as well as tax consequences, 15 step-up in basis.</p> <p>16 Q. Were the 20 or so acquisitions that you 17 mentioned, would they have been large acquisitions or 18 was -- I understand that your acquisition of the Kansas 19 Pipeline Company's assets was the largest at that time 20 you had done?</p> <p>21 A. That's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. And that was, a gross amount, around 23 188 million, whatever it was. Dollar-wise, did you ever 24 have any half that large before then?</p> <p>25 A. I don't believe so.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 A. Asset. I think there was an (h)10 election 2 involved.</p> <p>3 Q. That's 330 --</p> <p>4 A. 338(h)10.</p> <p>5 Q. 338(h)10 Code Section. 6 Do you recall the type of due diligence 7 that was performed then, before the AlaTenn purchase?</p> <p>8 A. (Witness nods)</p> <p>9 Q. What kind of things were you responsible for as 10 far as due diligence goes?</p> <p>11 A. Financial matters.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you go out --</p> <p>13 A. Projections.</p> <p>14 Q. Sorry for interrupting.</p> <p>15 A. Yeah, just financial matters in general.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you go out and verify assets somehow?</p> <p>17 A. We went to the location.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you go inspect?</p> <p>19 A. Well, we -- I didn't look at the pipelines, per 20 se, but, you know, I was at their offices and reviewed 21 various documents.</p> <p>22 Q. And then you'd look at the liabilities?</p> <p>23 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>24 Q. I assume -- how would you become comfortable 25 with the outstanding liabilities?</p>

7 (Pages 22 to 25)

HUNDT REPORTING
214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 A. Well, recorded ones were easy to get a grip on; 2 and it was just a matter of, you know, discussions with 3 personnel and, you know, just trying to get a sense as 4 to whether or not there could be other liabilities out 5 there, environmental and otherwise.</p> <p>6 Q. And income projections I assume you would look 7 at; is that correct?</p> <p>8 A. That's correct.</p> <p>9 Q. How would you test those? As an auditor, isn't 10 it a term of art to test the veracity of something?</p> <p>11 A. Yeah, it was. You know, you would look at 12 contracts principally. And that's certainly what we 13 liked to see, is, you know, an income stream related to 14 a contract that was -- you know, you could see the term 15 and then you could -- you would have to assess the 16 likelihood of -- of the contract renewing and just the 17 general market conditions in that area.</p> <p>18 Q. And how would you verify expense type 19 projections?</p> <p>20 A. We would -- we would have to estimate the 21 incremental -- the incremental expenses that would be 22 either added to or taken off what they were -- what they 23 were -- what they had at that time. Typically, we tried 24 to save money.</p> <p>25 Q. Was there any due diligence that occurred with</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 Q. And the assets, were they pipelines as well, 2 AlaTenn?</p> <p>3 A. Uh-huh, they were.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. I've got various binders here. I would 5 like for you to look at this binder first, please. 6 That's Government Exhibit No. 1.</p> <p>7 Yesterday Mr. Kaitson was in and he 8 confirmed that this was the closing binder held by 9 Midcoast. They have been Bates stamped if you look at 10 the bottom right-hand corner. I'll try to refer to 11 those Bates stamp when we want to look at various 12 documents.</p> <p>13 I assume you are familiar with this 14 binder; is that correct?</p> <p>15 A. Familiar with this agreement?</p> <p>16 Q. Well, this -- this entire binder I think has 17 not only the agreement but ancillary documents.</p> <p>18 A. I can't --</p> <p>19 Q. I know you haven't had a chance to really go 20 through it.</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, I can't say I am familiar with it until I 22 actually look at it.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay. That's all right. We'll start with an 24 individual document. We'll go there.</p> <p>25 If you'll turn to ENB 235, which is the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 regard to the management of the company?</p> <p>2 A. Can you -- I'm not sure I understand your 3 question.</p> <p>4 Q. Would you ever have to, for any reason, 5 investigate, you know, how the management is either 6 perceived or --</p> <p>7 A. Generally not.</p> <p>8 Q. If you were bringing them along, certainly you 9 would want to know something about them; is that right?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, that is true.</p> <p>11 Q. The AlaTenn purchase, did you bring any of the 12 management along?</p> <p>13 A. No, I don't believe so. I mean, management, 14 no.</p> <p>15 Q. Who else -- did you bring somebody along?</p> <p>16 A. Yeah, we -- we brought over --</p> <p>17 Q. Employees?</p> <p>18 A. -- all the operations folks.</p> <p>19 Q. And then who owned AlaTenn at the time?</p> <p>20 A. Atrion.</p> <p>21 Q. Is that a private entity or a public entity?</p> <p>22 A. I think it was a public entity. I think 23 they're a medical products company.</p> <p>24 Q. They're in medical products?</p> <p>25 A. Uh-huh.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 asset purchase agreement, are you familiar with this 2 document, sir?</p> <p>3 A. As familiar as I can be after five or six 4 years, whatever it's been.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. Look at 263, and let me know if that's 6 your signature.</p> <p>7 A. 263?</p> <p>8 Q. Uh-huh.</p> <p>9 A. Yes, it is.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay. Did you -- did you look at this 11 document, the asset purchase agreement, in conjunction 12 with your preparation for this deposition?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. Do you recall the time period, just 15 generally speaking, around the time this agreement was 16 executed back in November of '99?</p> <p>17 A. Do I recall the time period?</p> <p>18 Q. Yeah. Well, do you recall the events 19 surrounding that time period?</p> <p>20 A. Generally.</p> <p>21 Q. Ask you the question and we'll find out, right?</p> <p>22 A. Yeah.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you recall why -- why Midcoast was 24 interested in buying these assets --</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 Q. -- of this company? 2 Okay. Why is that? 3 A. It -- we felt that it gained us critical mass 4 that we needed in the public markets. It basically 5 doubled the size of the company. And we thought -- you 6 know, we thought ultimately there was some upside, you 7 know, to those assets.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. Look at ENB 240 -- I'm sorry, 242. Can 9 you tell me -- that has to do with excluded assets. If 10 you'll review that provision for a minute.</p> <p>11 Do you recall what the Butcher interests 12 were?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. What were the Butcher interests?</p> <p>15 A. It was an obligation to pay basically a 16 royalty. I don't remember whether it was 1-1/2 or 17 2 percent of revenue.</p> <p>18 Q. An obligation of?</p> <p>19 A. The company.</p> <p>20 Q. Kansas Pipeline?</p> <p>21 A. I believe so.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay. Now, an obligation is not necessarily an 23 asset, is it?</p> <p>24 A. From whose perspective? The person who owns 25 it, it is an asset; the person who -- who has to pay it,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 Q. They wanted to retain the interest or the 2 obligation? 3 A. The interest. 4 Q. Okay. When you described what the Butcher 5 interest was a minute ago, you said it was an 6 obligation, so that's why I'm trying -- 7 A. It was an obligation of Kansas Pipeline; and if 8 we purchased Kansas Pipeline, we would -- we would have 9 that obligation. We would continue to have that 10 obligation and K-Pipe would retain the benefit of 11 that -- of that 2 percent royalty.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. And who have the obligation?</p> <p>13 A. Whoever owned Kansas Pipeline, which in this 14 case was us, Midcoast.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay. So is the -- the Butcher interest is 16 listed on the excluded assets listing. I'm still 17 confused. Is it an obligation or is it -- 18 A. It's an obligation of Kansas Pipeline. And if 19 we were buying Kansas Pipeline, Kansas Pipeline would 20 have to continue to pay that royalty interest to the 21 owner of the Butcher interest, which in this case was 22 K-Pipe.</p> <p>23 Q. Uh-huh.</p> <p>24 A. So that obligation continued, essentially.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 it would be a liability.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. So, I mean, if it's an excluded asset, 3 would it necessarily be on the exclude -- or if it's an 4 obligation, would it be on the excluded assets list?</p> <p>5 A. It depends on, again, whose perspective.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay. Whose perspective was this agreement 7 written?</p> <p>8 A. I guess the person who owned all these 9 interests. It was an asset of K-Pipe at that time, 10 because they were the recipient of that revenue stream.</p> <p>11 Q. So they were the obligor and the recipient; is 12 that correct?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. So, when you mention the Butcher 15 interests was an obligation, is it -- as far as K-Pipe 16 went then, is it -- was it an obligation? Was it a 17 liability or an asset?</p> <p>18 A. From whose perspective?</p> <p>19 Q. From K-Pipe. That's who you said this 20 agreement was written for.</p> <p>21 Either way, K-Pipe is transferring assets 22 to Midcoast?</p> <p>23 A. Right.</p> <p>24 Q. My question --</p> <p>25 A. They wanted to retain that interest.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 A. They're saying they want to retain that, and we 2 would have -- we bought that asset with that encumbrance 3 on it.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. Midcoast bought the asset with the 5 encumbrance on it?</p> <p>6 A. Yes. Kansas Line -- Kansas Pipeline came with 7 that obligation to pay that 2 percent revenue interest.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. So, the Butcher interest as listed here 9 is --</p> <p>10 A. Is an asset of K-Pipe's.</p> <p>11 Q. -- is an asset of K-Pipe's that they're going 12 to retain?</p> <p>13 A. That they wanted to retain.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. And as it being an asset, it's not 15 their -- it's not an obligation, is it? It's receiving 16 something?</p> <p>17 A. From K-Pipe's perspective, it's an asset; from 18 Kansas Pipeline's perspective, it's an obligation.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. Why -- was it Midcoast that didn't want 20 to buy the Butcher interest or was it K-Pipe who wanted 21 to retain the Butcher interest?</p> <p>22 A. K-Pipe wanted to retain it --</p> <p>23 Q. And why is that?</p> <p>24 A. -- and we wanted to buy it, but we had to 25 negotiate separately for it.</p>

9 (Pages 30 to 33)

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Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 Q. Okay. And why is that? 2 A. Like I said, it's a nice asset. 3 Q. Well, why did they want to not sell it to you? 4 A. Well, they did ultimately. I mean, we 5 became -- I mean, they sold a portion of it to us. 6 Q. I understand that. But during the -- when this 7 agreement was executed, why wasn't it just transferred 8 along with all the other assets to Midcoast? 9 A. It -- it was principally a FERC issue. We -- 10 we wanted to retain -- you know, we were in the process 11 of a rate case. 12 Q. Uh-huh. 13 A. And so we wanted to show that that -- that 14 obligation was an obligation to an outside party, and so 15 we wanted to handle it separately so that -- in hopes 16 that it could be included as part of the costs of Kansas 17 Pipeline that could be recovered from the rate payers. 18 Q. And the outside party would have been K-Pipe; 19 is that right? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Were -- was Midcoast ultimately successful in 22 the rate case in asserting that position? Did it go 23 into the computation -- 24 A. I -- 25 Q. -- by the FERC?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 point in having it part of the transaction. 2 Q. Okay. And on the item No. C, do you recall why 3 those certain causes of action were withheld or 4 excluded? 5 A. I'm a little fuzzy on that, but, I mean, just 6 by reading it, I assume it was litigation -- 7 Q. Okay. 8 A. -- that we didn't want a part -- we didn't want 9 to be a party to. 10 Q. Is -- who negotiated these provisions, do you 11 know, on behalf of Midcoast under 2.5? 12 A. Under 2.5? 13 Q. Yeah, that's the provisions under 2.5. 14 A. I mean, it would have been a variety of people, 15 included in -- in negotiating provisions in this 16 agreement. 17 Q. Would you -- how much was your involvement as 18 far as negotiating provisions such as 2.5? 19 A. Oh, I would have been certainly very involved. 20 Q. Was it -- was Mr. Tutcher making most of -- I 21 assume whenever the agreements are drafted that there is 22 some back and forth negotiation in that regard with 23 regard to the provisions. Was Mr. Tutcher the lead 24 person responsible for looking and -- and making 25 suggestions or would that have been you?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 A. I wasn't there by the time that rate case was 2 resolved, so I'm not sure. 3 Q. Okay. Tell me what Item B under 2.5 is. What 4 kind of asset was that and why was it held out or 5 excluded? 6 A. As I recall, that was a cash reserve that was 7 required by lenders. I can't remember if it was Trust 8 Company of the West or some -- someone had put in or had 9 lent money to I can't remember which entity, one of -- 10 one of the entities; and as a requirement they were 11 required to have \$10 million set aside, a sinking fund, 12 per se. 13 Q. One of the Langley entities? 14 A. Yeah. 15 Q. So, was there a requirement, then, that that -- 16 explain to me why that reason required that the asset be 17 excluded from the conveyance. 18 A. I -- I assume they wanted to keep the 19 \$10 million. 20 Q. "They" being? 21 A. K-Pipe. Or that -- you know, maybe their 22 agreement with Langley. Maybe Langley wanted to keep 23 the \$10 million. I don't know. Because, I mean, it 24 would -- it would just be a wash. I mean, you would pay 25 him \$10 million to get \$10 million. I mean, there's no</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 A. No, that would have been myself and attorneys, 2 depending on -- and tax advisors, et cetera, depending 3 on what provisions we were talking about. And -- and, 4 you know, Chip Berthelot had a hand in some of it as 5 well. 6 Q. Generally, was it you would -- you would review 7 what was going on at the time and report to Mr. Tutcher, 8 if he asked you how are things going on the acquisition 9 type thing? 10 A. Yeah, we would report to Mr. Tutcher and the 11 board. 12 Q. Was he -- was Mr. Tutcher actively involved? 13 Was he notified on a daily basis what was going on 14 during this period of time? 15 A. I mean, I wouldn't characterize it as actively 16 involved. 17 Q. He depended on you and others to do the 18 negotiations? 19 A. Correct. There was -- yeah, essentially. 20 Q. Turn to ENB 367. Do you recognize this 21 partnership agreement? 22 A. Yes, generally. 23 Q. Tell me again the purpose of the Butcher 24 Interest Partnership. 25 A. We wanted to own part of that interest, so we</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 entered into a partnership with K-Pipe. 2 Q. And you said earlier that the reason it wasn't 3 just purchased initially or in conjunction with the 4 asset purchase agreement is because you wanted to keep 5 the obligation in place to assist you in your rate case? 6 A. Well, that was, you know, certainly -- K-Pipe 7 liked the asset and -- and, yeah, I mean, from our 8 perspective, you know, we didn't want to buy it outright 9 because we wanted to retain that -- that position in 10 front of the FERC. 11 Q. And why did -- what makes you think that K-Pipe 12 wanted the asset or the interest? Did anybody from 13 K-Pipe ever express to you why they wanted to keep that 14 interest? 15 A. Well, why anyone would want to keep an asset, 16 because it's, you know, cash flows. 17 Q. Did -- do you know if K-Pipe ever received any 18 cash flows from the Butcher interest? 19 A. I can't -- I don't know. I don't remember 20 specifically. I remember we ultimately bought it from 21 them, so... 22 Q. In the FERC proceeding, did Midcoast have to 23 disclose the history of the Butcher interest to the 24 FERC? 25 A. I wasn't part of the proceedings.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 requested when we negotiated a deal with K-Pipe. 2 Q. And how was that request made? 3 A. I just talked to our -- the bank officer and 4 told him the transaction that we were attempting to do 5 and -- and if they could provide financing, which they 6 ultimately did. 7 Q. Was that after the fact or was that in 8 November, you know, pursuant to this transaction? 9 A. It was -- I know it -- I know that the 10 acquisition of our interest in this occurred after the 11 fact. 12 Q. I'm just trying to gauge whenever your 13 discussion with -- when you went to the bank to ask for 14 the money. Was it after the fact or was it in 15 conjunction with the purchase, asset purchase? 16 A. I don't recall specifically. 17 Q. And at that time you were able to get -- were 18 you able to get the lending you needed? 19 A. Yeah, I believe we acquired -- I think was it 20 \$6.1 million loan or something like that. 21 Q. Well, turn to 16. I mean, I think that's what 22 we're talking about then. 23 A. 16? 24 Q. I'm sorry, 377, ENB 377. 25 A. Uh-huh.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 Q. Did Midcoast have the financial ability to 2 acquire the Butcher interest at the time the asset 3 purchase agreement was entered into? 4 A. As I recall, no. 5 Q. Why not? 6 A. We didn't have any availability on a credit 7 line to do it. 8 Q. How much was the credit line? 9 A. I believe it was 265 million. 10 Q. And then the transaction itself was -- the 11 asset purchase was 200 million or so? 12 A. Round-about. 13 Q. Okay. 14 A. But we had some existing debt already. 15 Q. Some existing. So you -- there was no way to 16 get another \$6-1/2 million? 17 A. Not at that point in time. 18 Q. And was that amount of money requested from the 19 line of credit? 20 A. I mean, you're testing my memory. I can't -- I 21 mean, I just knew that we didn't have that availability 22 at the time to do it. 23 Q. You don't recall a request to Bank of 24 America to -- 25 A. I mean, ultimately, yeah. Ultimately, it was</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 Q. Is this what you were talking about? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. The credit agreement between Butcher Interest 4 Partnership as borrower and Bank of America N.A. as 5 lender? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. And so the \$6.1 million was able to be 8 borrowed? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Did you negotiate this credit agreement with 11 Bank of America? 12 A. I was involved, yes. 13 Q. How did the addition of K-Pipe as a partner -- 14 I assume that that's -- your position is that that gave 15 Bank of America more comfort in lending the money to you 16 or Midcoast and K-Pipe? 17 A. I don't understand the question. 18 Q. Yeah, terrible question. 19 Why was it that Bank of America would not 20 loan Midcoast the money, but then when K-Pipe was 21 brought in it would? 22 A. Well, again, I don't think it was an issue of 23 whether or not they would lend Midcoast the money. It 24 was an issue of Midcoast at that time wanted, you know, 25 from the FERC perspective, to not own it, wholly own it.</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 Q. Uh-huh. 2 A. And so we went into a partnership arrangement 3 with K-Pipe. 4 Q. Okay. But I thought you said also that, at the 5 time, that Midcoast couldn't afford -- there was no more 6 room in the credit line? 7 A. Well, there wasn't, as -- as it was 8 contemplated -- 9 Q. Uh-huh. 10 A. -- because this was an excluded asset. And, 11 so, had we included it, could we have gotten funding for 12 it? Possibly. 13 Q. Okay. Do you recall if Midcoast guaranteed 14 this Butcher Interest Partnership credit agreement? 15 A. I expect we did. 16 Q. Do you recall if K-Pipe, anybody from K-Pipe 17 guaranteed the obligation? 18 A. I expect they did as well. 19 Q. Was the income from the Butcher interest enough 20 to pay the principal and interest on the Butcher 21 Interest Partnership credit agreement, on that loan? 22 A. I believe so. I don't recall the specific 23 numbers. 24 Q. Was Midcoast making the payment on the note? 25 A. I don't think it was Midcoast that was a party</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 6.225 million? 2 A. 225, uh-huh. 3 Q. What was the purpose of that distribution? 4 A. The partnership was paying K-Pipe for the 5 interest. They basically sold that interest to this 6 partnership. 7 Q. And do you know why K-Pipe would -- would have 8 wanted to do that if -- I thought you said earlier they 9 wanted to retain that interest? 10 A. Well, we offered them a price that they were 11 willing to take. 12 Q. How much -- how was that price determined, the 13 six-point -- was it 6.5 million or -- 14 A. Yeah, I think that's right. 15 Q. How was that price determined? 16 A. It was just modeled like anything else, I 17 imagine. 18 Q. Do you recall -- 19 A. I believe I would have modeled it. 20 Q. There would have been some kind of projections? 21 A. Uh-huh. 22 Q. And you're talking about modeling an Excel 23 spreadsheet? 24 A. Exactly. 25 Q. Okay. Was that something that you were</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 to this. No, I mean, I assume it was the -- this was 2 the partnership. 3 Q. Would it surprise you if Midcoast was making 4 payments on that note? 5 A. Yeah, because I would think that the 6 partnership would make the payments on the note. 7 Q. Who would authorize the payment of the note 8 payment each -- was it a monthly payment? 9 A. I don't recall. 10 Q. Would that have been under your responsibility, 11 to authorize payment of such? 12 A. Yeah, it's likely, yeah. I mean -- 13 Q. Who had control over the Butcher Interest 14 Partnership bank account? 15 A. Again, you're testing my memory, but I would 16 assume both parties would have control over the account. 17 Q. Turn back to ENB 369, please. 18 A. Okay. 19 Q. Article VII in the Butcher Interest Partnership 20 agreement, do you see that? 21 A. Uh-huh. 22 Q. What was the reason that this cash -- cash was 23 borrowed of 6.1 million; is that right? 24 A. Uh-huh. 25 Q. And then it was to be distributed to K-Pipe,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 responsible for in Midcoast -- 2 A. Uh-huh. 3 Q. -- the projections and modeling them? 4 A. Generally, yes. 5 Q. Turning on to Article XIII on page ENB 370, do 6 you recall that K-Pipe had an option to purchase -- oh, 7 I'm sorry -- Midcoast had an option to purchase K-Pipe's 8 interests? 9 A. Uh-huh, yeah. 10 Q. And what was the purpose of that provision? 11 A. I expect that, as I recall, if we -- I guess if 12 we felt like we weren't going to be successful at FERC, 13 we wanted the option to -- to buy it. 14 Q. Okay. And then the next page on Section 13.04, 15 K-Pipe is given a right to purchase the interest, that 16 partnership interest from Midcoast; is that right? 17 A. No, I think they were given the -- well, I 18 think they were -- K-Pipe shall have the option to sell, 19 it says. It was a -- they could put it to us, 20 essentially. 21 Q. Okay. And why -- what was the purpose of that 22 provision, if you recall? 23 A. I guess it gave them, you know, gave them 24 ultimate flexibility in what they wanted to do. I mean, 25 we wanted the right to buy it and they wanted other --</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 they wanted rights as well, based on what they wanted to 2 do. 3 Q. Okay. You can close that binder and then go to 4 binder -- let me see. 5 A. Could I take a break? 6 Q. Sure. Sure. Just a quick break. 7 (Recess from 10:46 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.) 8 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Mr. Robert, you ready? 9 A. Yes, I am. 10 Q. Okay. Turn to Government Exhibit 5, which 11 would be in here. 12 A. Okay. 13 Q. You could put those two on the floor behind 14 you, if you would like. 15 A. Okay. 16 Q. This is a -- appears to be an engagement letter 17 between Price Waterhouse Coopers and Midcoast Energy 18 Resources; is that correct? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. And it's addressed to you, dated April 8, 1999; 21 is that right? 22 A. That's correct. 23 Q. Is this something that you obtained -- did you 24 obtain the engagement letter from Price Waterhouse 25 Coopers every year prior to their work?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 Q. Did you work with Mr. Parker in conjunction 2 with the -- their financial statement audit of the 3 company? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Okay. And his staff people, I assume? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. And how long did PWC continue doing the 8 financial statement audits after 1999? 9 A. To my knowledge -- 10 Q. Was it up until you left? 11 A. To my knowledge, they haven't stopped. 12 Q. Oh, okay. And in conjunction with the 13 financial statement audits of the company, was it 14 typical to have the staff people come and ask you 15 questions about various issues on the financial 16 statements? 17 A. Typically, I only dealt with issues, if there 18 were any issues. 19 Q. All right. 20 A. So, no, they typically didn't deal with me. 21 Q. Typically, they dealt with your staff; is that 22 right? 23 A. Correct. 24 Q. How many did you have in your accounting 25 department back in 1999? More than five?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 A. I can't recall if I got it every year. I 2 recall -- 3 Q. Periodically? 4 A. I recall acquiring them at some point. I don't 5 know if I got it the first year and -- 6 Q. All right. The third paragraph, it says, "We 7 look forward to working with you and your staff during 8 the completion of this important tax compliance 9 project." Now, tax compliance is generally the 10 preparation of income tax returns; is that right? 11 A. Correct. 12 Q. Was Price Waterhouse Coopers doing the audit of 13 Midcoast at this time as well? 14 A. Yes, they were. 15 Q. Who was -- do you recall in '99, who was the 16 audit partner? 17 A. In '99? 18 Q. Uh-huh. 19 A. Steven. His last name eludes me. Steven 20 Parker. 21 Q. Steven Parker? 22 A. Parker, I believe. 23 Q. And did you work with Mr. Parker in assisting 24 with the financial statement audit of the company? 25 A. Did -- could you repeat the question?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. I would have to guess 2 somewhere in the neighborhood of 20. 3 Q. And you said that Price Waterhouse Coopers' 4 audit team only came to you if there were certain 5 issues; is that right? 6 A. Uh-huh. 7 Q. Did Price Waterhouse Coopers, in conjunction 8 with their audits, ever come and ask you about this 9 transaction with K-Pipe? 10 A. I mean, not as an issue. 11 Q. Not as an issue? 12 A. No. 13 Q. They did discuss it with you? 14 A. Yeah. We would -- I would have discussions 15 with our auditors about things we were doing all the 16 time. 17 Q. Okay. But I thought you said they only came to 18 you if there were certain issues? 19 A. The staff people who were doing an audit, I 20 would sit and talk. But, you know, I would go and have 21 lunch with Steven Parker and we would talk about things 22 that were going on. 23 Q. On, let's see. On the second page of the 24 engagement letter, it says, "Terms of engagement to 25 prepare tax return"?</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 A. Uh-huh. 2 Q. At the bottom, it says, "Our fee estimate does 3 not include time for accounting support, tax planning, 4 consultation or special projects. Special projects and 5 consultations will be detailed in a separate engagement 6 letter should the need arise at 65 percent of our 7 standard hourly rates." 8 A. Uh-huh. 9 Q. Was that pretty typical? 10 A. Was what typical? 11 Q. That they would bill their -- for special 12 projects and consultations at 65 percent of standard 13 hourly rates? 14 A. That's what I required. 15 Q. Pardon me? 16 A. I required that. 17 Q. You required that? 18 A. That was a negotiated number. 19 Q. Okay. And why -- and they were willing to do 20 it at 65 percent of rates? 21 A. Uh-huh. 22 Q. Okay. Did they -- did you use them, PWC, for 23 special projects and consultations periodically? 24 A. Periodically. 25 Q. And those billings were at 65 percent of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 purchase of Kansas Pipeline Company? 2 A. Yeah. I mean, this would indicate that would 3 be -- that was the case. 4 Q. Did -- I mean, is there anything in your 5 recollection that would say, no, it was later or before 6 that? 7 A. No. 8 Q. And the next exhibit, Government Exhibit 7, 9 same type of question. It's an unsigned copy. We got 10 it from Chase. It's dated June 21, '99, another letter 11 to Bill Bray where they were transmitting the 12 confidentiality agreement for signature? 13 A. Uh-huh. 14 Q. June 21, 1999, is that about the time when 15 Midcoast would have received something like that from 16 Chase? 17 A. Yeah, that's what it indicates. I imagine 18 that's correct. 19 Q. Any reason to dispute? 20 A. Nope. 21 Q. The same question with 9.1, if you would turn 22 over there, please. You don't have one? 23 A. No, I don't think so. I see 10. 24 Q. Here you go. Take a look at this one. This is 25 a letter on July 21 of '99. It's unsigned but it's from</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 rate? 2 A. I -- I expect so. 3 Q. Do you recall how you justified to them that 4 they should only get 65 percent of their rates for -- 5 A. Because their rates were ridiculous and they 6 kept going up and up. I think that's why I required 7 this, actually, because I got tired of the rates keep 8 going up. So, that -- that -- I recall that I was 9 getting tired of that, so I said let's put it on paper 10 and let's agree. 11 Q. Do you have Exhibit 6 in your binder? I pulled 12 it out yesterday, I think. 13 A. This one here? 14 Q. Oh, you do have it. 15 MR. COFFIN: These must be yours. 16 MS. PIPKIN: Yes, they are. 17 MR. COFFIN: Those are yours as well. 18 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) This is an unsigned letter from 19 Chase, I think, to Mr. Bill Bray, dated June 16th of 20 '99, and the first line says: Pursuant to our 21 conversation, please find the enclosed presentation that 22 provides a brief description of Project Ruby." My only 23 question is, June 16th of '99, is it about that time 24 that you began receiving things from Chase, Midcoast 25 began receiving things from Chase with regard to the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 Midcoast energy to Mr. Bill Manias at Chase Securities. 2 I'm just wondering the same question, about the same -- 3 the time frame involved. Would that have been about the 4 time the letter, if any, would have been transmitted to 5 Chase? 6 A. No reason to think it would be any other time. 7 Q. Okay. Insert that in yours, please. 8 A. Should these be -- 9 Q. They shouldn't be stapled? 10 A. Well, this says 10, this says 10. 11 Q. Go ahead and take it off. 12 A. This is -- so just unstaple them. Here's 9, so 13 maybe it's back here. 9.1. 14 Q. Okay. 15 A. I guess 10 is just out of place. 16 MR. COFFIN: Go off the record for a 17 second. 18 A. Oh, you've got another 10 here. 19 Q. Oh, you've got a 10 there. That's my crackpot 20 staff. 21 Okay. Deposition Exhibit 10, this is 22 the -- this is a copy of the Kansas Pipeline offering 23 memo. I assume you would have reviewed something like 24 this around that time period? 25 A. Yes.</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 Q. And it's dated -- shows August of '99? 2 A. Uh-huh. 3 Q. What was attractive -- I think we already 4 covered this. What was attractive to Midcoast about 5 Kansas Pipeline Company? 6 A. It was -- it was an acquisition that was going 7 to give us critical mass in the market, which we felt 8 was important. It was an asset that we were familiar 9 with, being a pipeline and being regulated. 10 Q. Was Midcoast pursuing a pipeline company at the 11 time or did Bishop or Langley or his representatives 12 call Midcoast first? 13 A. I don't know. 14 Q. Okay. How did you first hear of the potential 15 acquisition? 16 A. Through -- through our business development 17 people. 18 Q. Okay. Was that Mr. Bray? 19 A. Uh-huh. 20 Q. Go to 20, Government Exhibit 20. Okay. This 21 is a draft copy of the board of directors meeting of 22 Midcoast Energy Resources dated August 11th of '99, and 23 it's unsigned. I understand there should be a signed 24 copy somewhere, but I did want to talk to you about page 25 2 of the minutes, the New Business matters.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 Midcoast was 157 million; is that correct? Do you 2 recall that? 3 A. I wasn't involved with that, but that's what it 4 says. 5 Q. Generally, is this -- is this, this text under 6 New Business, is this consistent with management's 7 perception of Kansas Pipeline at the time? 8 A. At that time. 9 Q. Okay. And the last -- the last sentence in 10 that, under that New Business says, "No recommendation 11 or approvals were being sought at this time, but 12 Mr. Tucher wanted the board to be advised of this 13 pending transaction." Was that something that was 14 customary, for Mr. Tucher to advise the board of what 15 was going on basically? 16 A. Something of this magnitude, yes. 17 Q. The due diligence that you personally conducted 18 on the Kansas Pipeline, whether it be the -- the stock 19 purchase, the attempted stock purchase or the asset 20 purchase, how much time or how much due diligence in 21 hours would you say you conducted? 22 A. I mean, it was significant after a letter of 23 intent was signed. 24 Q. How many trips to Kansas City occurred? 25 A. I can recall two, at least.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 You attended all the board meetings; is 2 that correct? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. And did you have an opportunity to review the 5 minutes afterwards for any reason? 6 A. Generally. 7 Q. Is that in draft form you reviewed them or did 8 you review them after they were finalized? 9 A. Generally, I reviewed them in draft form. 10 Q. And why was that? 11 A. Just for clarity. 12 Q. And then who was preparing minutes? 13 Mr. Herbst? 14 A. Herbst. 15 Q. Duane S. Herbst? 16 A. Uh-huh. 17 Q. And then would you make suggestions to him? 18 A. Yeah, if there was something I disagreed with. 19 Q. Okay. 20 A. But, generally, he got it right. 21 Q. Is it true -- you might read over that New 22 Business on page 2, couple paragraphs there, two 23 paragraphs. 24 A. Uh-huh. Okay. 25 Q. Okay. My first question is: the initial bid of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 Q. Where you personally went? 2 A. Yeah. 3 Q. Were there other times when other members of 4 management or the due diligence team traveled up there 5 otherwise? 6 A. Yeah, I believe so. 7 Q. Government Exhibit 23, this is a letter from 8 Bank of America Securities to Midcoast Energy Resources, 9 to your attention; is that right? 10 A. That's correct. 11 Q. Dated August 25 of '99? 12 A. Uh-huh. 13 Q. All right. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. And what is this? What is this type of letter 16 called? Is it a -- is there a term of art that 17 describes this type of letter in the -- in your industry 18 or in banking? 19 A. A financing letter, I guess. 20 Q. Okay. And on the second page, it says, "Having 21 conducted the review cited above and taking into account 22 the assumptions cited above, we believe a transaction 23 providing for all costs and expenses associated with the 24 acquisition transaction is financeable through and up to 25 \$250 million senior secured bank debt facility.</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 A. Uh-huh. 2 Q. So, is that -- is the 250 million they were 3 willing to loan only related to the transaction, the 4 purchase of Kansas Pipeline? 5 A. No. 6 Q. Okay. What else did that encompass? 7 A. That encompassed all of our debt. 8 Q. Okay. And did they ever back off of the 9 \$250 million? 10 A. No. They had to -- they had to increase it to 11 265. 12 Q. Oh, they did? Okay. 13 A. In order to get all of our debt under the 14 umbrella. 15 Q. Okay. Government Exhibit 24, if you'll just 16 flip over one, please, this is a draft, redline draft 17 Agreement and Plan of Merger between Midcoast and Dennis 18 Langley; is that right? 19 A. That's correct. 20 Q. And it says the date of it is 8-30-99, 21 4:30 p.m.; is that right? 22 A. Correct. 23 Q. And it looks like it is a redline version. My 24 question is: who -- do you know who proposed the changes 25 to this agreement that would result in the redline</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 A. Again, just based on the income stream that it 2 provided. 3 Q. Do you think you would have done some modeling 4 for this entity? 5 A. I don't recall doing any modeling on that 6 entity specifically. 7 Q. Okay. 8 A. But it was -- it was principally a function of, 9 you know, we wanted -- we wanted him to be aware that if 10 he didn't want to include it in the transaction, you 11 know, it was fine, because we didn't attribute much 12 value to it. 13 Q. I see. So you were getting the option of 14 excluding that from the transaction? 15 A. Because I think he was -- yeah. I mean, I 16 think we had a difference of opinion on what the value 17 of that entity was. 18 Q. Okay. 19 A. And so we wanted to just clarify what we 20 thought it was worth. 21 Q. Now, at the time -- I assume this was -- this 22 was an offer to buy the stock of -- of Bishop; is that 23 right? 24 A. That's correct. 25 Q. Now, why did -- do you know why Mr. Langley did</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 changes? 2 A. I couldn't be certain. 3 Q. Okay. I believe Mr. Kaitson testified 4 yesterday that Langley and his representatives provided 5 the agreement and changes were proposed by Midcoast to 6 Langley's representatives; is that right? 7 A. I -- that -- yeah, I don't dispute that. 8 Q. The next exhibit, Government Exhibit 25, this 9 is a letter from Midcoast to Chase Securities, dated 10 August 30 of '99, correct? 11 A. That's correct. 12 Q. Signed by Mr. Tucher? 13 A. Uh-huh, yes. 14 Q. Would you have reviewed something like this 15 before it went to Chase? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. On the second page, under (v) or next to (v), 18 it says "Value for MarGasCo." What was -- what was 19 MarGasCo? 20 A. MarGasCo was their gas trading, gas marketing 21 entity. 22 Q. And it says, "The implicit value that Midcoast 23 has allocated to MarGasCo is \$1,275,000"? 24 A. Uh-huh. 25 Q. How was that amount determined?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 not accept this offer? 2 A. He didn't -- he didn't think it was an adequate 3 offer. 4 Q. Okay. Was the Butcher interest something that 5 was contemplated at this time, the exclusion of the 6 Butcher interest from the agreement? 7 A. "Except the Restricted Pipeline Royalties," 8 which is the Butcher interest, so, yeah, it excluded 9 that. 10 Q. Where is that? 11 A. No. 2. 12 Q. H-m-m. Okay. 13 And that would be -- is that on the -- is 14 there an appendix to that? I guess the balance sheet is 15 attached as Appendix 1? 16 A. That's the appendix, yeah. 17 Q. Okay. Do you recall at what point in time -- 18 or was PWC always involved in the negotiations, whether 19 it be stock purchase or asset purchase? 20 A. Can you clarify your question? 21 Q. When did PWC become involved with this 22 particular acquisition? 23 A. This particular one. I can't recall 24 specifically the date. 25 Q. Okay. Would they have been involved when</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 Midcoast was contemplating a stock purchase?</p> <p>2 A. I would have ultimately gotten them involved in 3 that situation.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. But you would have ultimately -- 5 somewhere down along the line, had the stock purchase 6 gone forward, you would have brought them in?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. For what type of reasons?</p> <p>9 A. Just to help from a due diligence standpoint, 10 make sure that, you know, I wasn't missing something, 11 something of this magnitude.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. Turn to 26, please.</p> <p>13 A. 26.</p> <p>14 Q. This is a facsimile transmission sheet, along 15 with some attachments, to -- from Craig Hoffman of 16 Fortrend International to Mr. Bruce Snyder of Ernst & 17 Young, "cc" Tom Palmisano, and it's dated August 30 of 18 '99, correct?</p> <p>19 A. Uh-huh, that's correct.</p> <p>20 Q. Have you seen this document before?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Including the cover page?</p> <p>23 A. That I can't confirm.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. When did -- tell me this, how you came 25 to know of Fortrend.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 were out there.</p> <p>2 Q. Were you aware that there might be some?</p> <p>3 A. Litigation, et cetera, that was ongoing, I 4 mean, certainly gave us cause for concern.</p> <p>5 Q. So you knew that Fortrend would help in the 6 transaction by giving you some comfort in the liability 7 issues, plus the tax benefits of an asset purchase?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Any other -- any other thoughts or reasons why 10 Fortrend would assist in the transaction?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember how much weight you placed on 13 those two items: the liability issues, tax benefits, as 14 far as --</p> <p>15 A. They were both very important.</p> <p>16 Q. Were you aware of any litigation out there that 17 might come back to bite you if there was a stock 18 purchase?</p> <p>19 A. Well, I mean, I recall on that other exhibit 20 there was mention of lawsuits with One Oak, et cetera.</p> <p>21 Q. That was a -- that was a right to sue One Oak, 22 wasn't it?</p> <p>23 A. Yeah, I can't -- I don't remember the issues, 24 but there was -- you know, certainly there were -- 25 Langley's relations with customers was strained to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 A. I believe it was Tom Palmisano, a conversation 2 that I was having -- I had with him.</p> <p>3 Q. And what did Mr. Palmisano tell you?</p> <p>4 A. He suggested that -- that they're -- Fortrend, 5 there was a company Fortrend that might help us in our 6 transaction.</p> <p>7 Q. How did he suggest that they might help?</p> <p>8 A. Well, because we were having, obviously, a 9 difficult time getting the stock transaction closed, 10 because there was a gap between what we were willing to 11 pay and what Mr. Langley was willing to accept. Tom was 12 aware of that.</p> <p>13 Q. And how did Tom tell you that Fortrend could 14 assist in that?</p> <p>15 A. Well, he had suggested that, you know, Fortrend 16 was a potential buyer of the stock, and that if they 17 bought the stock we could buy the assets.</p> <p>18 Q. Did he describe to you the tax benefits that 19 result from Fortrend buying the stock?</p> <p>20 A. Well, I was, you know, certainly aware of the 21 benefits. Some of the liability issues that we were 22 concerned with, you know, would go away, as well as a 23 step-up in basis was important to us.</p> <p>24 Q. What were the liability issues?</p> <p>25 A. Well, just, potential liability issues that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 say -- say the least.</p> <p>2 Q. Is that right?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. What was the -- what did you know about that?</p> <p>5 A. He wasn't very well liked, clearly, by FERC and 6 others.</p> <p>7 Q. When you say "clearly," explain why it's clear.</p> <p>8 A. One of the customers wasn't paying as invoiced.</p> <p>9 You know, I -- you know, I don't recall all the legal 10 issues that were going on at the time.</p> <p>11 Q. So -- so Mr. Palmisano approached you about 12 Fortrend. Did he tell you who Fortrend was, who made 13 it -- who made that company up?</p> <p>14 A. That was certainly one of my questions, and I 15 think that's why I received -- I remember looking at 16 this history of the firm.</p> <p>17 Q. Other than reading this history of the firm 18 that's on Government Exhibit 26, was there anything else 19 you did to become comfortable with Fortrend 20 International?</p> <p>21 A. I did speak to a gentleman there.</p> <p>22 Q. Who did you speak with?</p> <p>23 A. I don't remember his name, but if you gave me 24 some names, I'd probably remember it.</p> <p>25 Q. Craig Hoffman?</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 A. It wasn't Craig that I spoke to. 2 Q. Jeff Furman? 3 A. I think it might have been Jeff Furman who I 4 spoke to initially. 5 Q. And how long -- was that over the phone? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. How long did you speak with him? 8 A. I don't recall exactly, to be honest. 9 Q. And what did you -- did you know what -- how 10 Fortrend would benefit from this transaction? 11 A. As I recall it -- as I recall, they had net 12 operating losses. 13 Q. And how would -- so tell me how they would 14 benefit from the transaction. 15 A. That -- I don't recall the mechanics, but I 16 assumed that allowed them to not be concerned about 17 step-ups in basis, et cetera, et cetera. I don't recall 18 mechanically how they benefitted, but that was the gist. 19 I assume the way they'd benefit is that we, as an asset 20 purchaser, are willing to pay more than they're going to 21 have to pay for the stock, so I assume that's how they 22 benefit. 23 Q. Were they paid a fee in addition, additional to 24 the spread they would make on the purchase of the sale 25 of the assets?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 A. I don't know what -- I don't know if customary 2 is the right word. I know that they participated in 3 numerous transactions and that gave me comfort. 4 Q. You knew Fortrend participated? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Okay. 7 A. I knew they -- and, frankly, I relied on PWC's 8 recommendation. If they were recommending them, I felt 9 a certain level of comfort in that. 10 Q. Was PWC aware of any other of those -- of these 11 types of transactions, using Fortrend? Did they have 12 any clients that they said they had done this? 13 A. Yeah, I believe so. I mean, I saw a list -- I 14 recall seeing some transaction -- a list of 15 transactions, so... 16 Q. So, once Mr. Palmisano suggested the use of 17 Fortrend, what was the next step? 18 A. It was, you know, the little bit of due 19 diligence I did, reading this, talking to -- 20 Q. Jeff Furman? 21 A. -- Jeff Furman. 22 Q. Uh-huh. 23 A. And then it was, you know, introducing the 24 idea, introducing Fortrend to Dennis, and, you know, 25 rethinking how this transaction -- how we were going to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 A. No, there's no fee. 2 Q. Did you ever personally meet with anybody at 3 Fortrend? 4 A. Craig Hoffman. 5 Q. And where did you meet with him? Was it in 6 Kansas City? 7 A. I believe I saw him in Kansas City and I 8 believe I saw him in Houston, and I -- did I see him in 9 New York? I -- I can't remember. 10 Q. Did you have any reservations about doing 11 business with Fortrend? 12 A. No. 13 Q. Was it customary or did you think it was 14 customary to get a company or engage a company that had 15 net operating losses to come in and buy the stock so 16 that it could sell the assets to Midcoast? 17 MR. STERN: Objection, form. 18 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) You can go ahead and answer. 19 A. Oh, I can? 20 Q. Yeah, unless he tells you not to. 21 A. Oh, okay. Can you repeat the question? 22 Q. Did you find -- was it a customary thing in the 23 industry to find a buyer who would come in and buy stock 24 of a company so that your company could come and buy its 25 assets and not suffer the income tax consequences?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 do the transaction. You know, it was -- it was a matter 2 of closing the gap, and this was the only thing that we 3 felt could close it. 4 MR. COFFIN: What's this? 5 MR. STERN: That's my copy of the 6 exhibits. 7 MR. COFFIN: Oh, I'm sorry. 8 A. Can I put this away? 9 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Not yet. Sorry. Sorry, wish 10 you could. 11 MR. CROKE: Is that empty? I can get that 12 off the table for you. 13 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 14 MR. CROKE: Do you want another? 15 THE WITNESS: Well, actually, I probably 16 could use a quick break. 17 MR. COFFIN: Okay. Let's take a quick 18 break. 19 (Recess from 11:32 a.m. to 11:39 a.m.) 20 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Okay. Government Exhibit 160, 21 please, this is a draft memorandum dated December 14, 22 1999, from Price Waterhouse Coopers. I know you 23 probably haven't seen this, but I wanted to go over some 24 of the assertions that are made, made in the memorandum, 25 to see if they are consistent with what you recall.</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 A. Okay. 2 Q. Second paragraph of page 2, it says, "In 3 August 1999, Langley indicated to Midcoast that 4 Midcoast's bid was lower than several of the other bids 5 by approximately \$20 million, but that he might be 6 interested in entertaining creative structural ideas 7 such as a revenue sharing arrangement." Do you recall 8 that that was the case in August of '99? 9 A. That makes sense, that timing. 10 Q. Okay. And do you recall if the bid was 11 \$20 million short? 12 A. That's what he indicated to us. 13 Q. All right. And then the third paragraph says, 14 "Midcoast independently pursued the so-called Midco 15 transaction" -- Midco is M-I-D-C-O -- "Midco transaction 16 as a structural alternative." Is that accurate? 17 A. That -- yeah. 18 Q. Okay. And "On August 27th of '99, Midcoast and 19 Price Waterhouse Coopers contacted Fortrend 20 International, LLC." Is that about right? 21 A. I don't dispute it. 22 Q. Okay. And were you a part of that contact? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Was that when you spoke with Mr. Furman? 25 A. I believe so.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 other parties that Langley was negotiating with who 2 might be bidding on this acquisition? 3 A. Yeah. I mean, they had an auction process. I 4 mean, typically they invite multiple people. 5 Q. Did you know the parties? 6 A. We didn't know who they were. 7 Q. You didn't know? 8 A. No. 9 Q. You said you hypothecated. Who did you think 10 it might be? 11 A. Kinder Morgan, we thought; Enron, we thought. 12 Q. Okay. And then the next says, "PWC discussed 13 with Fortrend the price at which Fortrend might sell 14 assets of the Bishop Group to Midcoast if Fortrend were 15 to buy the stock of Bishop Group." Is that about right? 16 A. Can you -- I didn't read that. PWC discussed 17 with Fortrend the price at which Fortrend would buy the 18 stock in Bishop Group. I guess. I mean, I can't talk 19 for PWC. 20 Q. Okay. And it says, "Once Midcoast decided to 21 urge Fortrend to submit a bid, PWC discussed briefly 22 with Langley the due diligence process and closing 23 schedule if a Midco alternative were pursued." Did 24 Midcoast urge Fortrend to submit a bid? 25 A. I don't know if "urge" is the right word, but</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 Q. Okay. And then the fourth paragraph down, it 2 says, "On August 30, 1999, Fortrend provided some of its 3 background information to Langley's tax advisors, Ernst 4 & Young." I think we saw that in a facsimile 5 transmission sheet we saw just a second ago, Exhibit 26. 6 "Over the next several weeks, several conversations took 7 place among Fortrend, Midcoast, PWC and Ernst & Young 8 regarding the viability of the Midco alternative." Is 9 that -- is that accurate? 10 A. I believe so. 11 Q. Okay. And then the last full paragraph, it 12 says, "On September 13, 1999, PWC met with Midcoast in 13 Kansas City to determine whether Fortrend should be 14 invited to enter the bidding process." Is that 15 accurate? 16 A. Sounds reasonable. 17 Q. Okay. And then it says next, "At the time, 18 Langley was actively discussing a transaction with at 19 least three or four potential purchasers." Do you 20 recall that at the time? 21 A. That's what we were told. 22 Q. Do you recall who the purchasers were? 23 A. We -- we hypothesized, but we weren't certain 24 who they might have been. 25 Q. Did you -- were you aware that there were some</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 we -- yeah, I mean, we were certainly happy to entertain 2 that. 3 Q. Okay. And then the -- did you know what -- was 4 the word "Midco" used in your discussions with Palmisano 5 and Fortrend, M-I-D-C-O, Midco? 6 A. Like as a code name? I don't recall. I don't 7 recall. 8 Q. You've never heard the phrase "Midco 9 alternative"?</p> <p>10 A. I don't remember it being referred to as that. 11 I remember "Project Ruby." That was Langley's code 12 name. 13 Q. Turn to the next page, page 3. The third 14 paragraph follows two paragraphs that talk about how 15 Fortrend continued to pursue stock purchase. The third 16 paragraph says, "Midcoast did not formally withdraw its 17 bid to purchase the stock of Bishop Group." Is that 18 correct? 19 A. I believe that's true. 20 Q. Why did Midcoast find it was necessary to 21 continue to bid on the stock purchase of Bishop? 22 A. There was no reason to withdraw it. Our bid 23 was in there just like anyone else's. If he was going 24 to accept that bid, we were still willing to proceed. 25 Q. Okay. And I should have read the next</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 sentence. It says, "Midcoast was concerned that 2 withdrawing its bid would render it unable to go forward 3 with the stock purchase in the event that Fortrend was 4 unable to proceed with the stock purchase transaction." 5 Is that correct?</p> <p>6 A. Yeah. I mean, that was the whole gap issue.</p> <p>7 Q. What do you mean, the whole gap issue?</p> <p>8 A. That -- that -- the gap between what we were 9 willing to buy and he was willing to sell.</p> <p>10 Q. Uh-huh. The next paragraph says, "However, as 11 of September 13, 1999, Midcoast did not engage in any 12 further discussions with Langley or his representatives 13 regarding the purchase of the Bishop Group stock." Do 14 you recall if that's correct?</p> <p>15 A. Yeah, with the caveat that he includes here.</p> <p>16 Q. What's that, that some direct discussions 17 between Midcoast and Langley's representatives 18 inevitably took place, but they were far more limited 19 than what they otherwise would have been if Fortrend 20 were not involved? Is that the caveat?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay. When you couldn't close the gap between 23 Midcoast and what Langley wanted, Midcoast offered what 24 Langley wanted, did you ever consider -- did Midcoast 25 ever consider doing an asset purchase?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 Item No. 1 -- did you have a conversation with Chip on 2 that date, do you think, discussing these things?</p> <p>3 A. I may have. I don't know.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. Do you know what he's talking about when 5 he -- on Item No. 3, it says, "Tax, use it or not. If 6 yes, share 50 percent savings. Plug back into gap. Or 7 not," and there's an arrow pointing down, or "we adjust 8 one fourth of it now." Any ideas what he's --</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. And it says on the left there, "Dennis to use 11 Price Waterhouse." Was there ever any discussion that 12 Mr. Langley would use Price Waterhouse for any reason?</p> <p>13 A. I don't know for what.</p> <p>14 Q. Turn to 28, please. Do you recognize this 15 document, Mr. Robert?</p> <p>16 A. Yeah.</p> <p>17 Q. What is this?</p> <p>18 A. It's -- it's what it suggests, a data point 19 sheet going over all the --</p> <p>20 Q. Who would have prepared it?</p> <p>21 A. I am not certain, but it might have been Chip 22 Berthelot.</p> <p>23 Q. Was this something that you reviewed?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Around -- it's dated at the bottom September 7</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 A. We wanted to do an asset purchase the entire 2 time. Langley wouldn't entertain it.</p> <p>3 Q. Well, see, to the point where he wouldn't 4 entertain it whatsoever, regardless of what the price 5 was, or did you ever have discussions with his 6 representatives like that?</p> <p>7 A. Oh, sure. Yeah, I imagine from the outset we 8 asked if we could buy the assets, because we always -- I 9 mean, that was always the preferred route. And we were 10 told, no, it's a stock transaction.</p> <p>11 THE WITNESS: You writing love letters to 12 somebody?</p> <p>13 MS. PIPKIN: Oh, I was just finishing my 14 notes on that.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: You're very intense.</p> <p>16 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Turn to -- sorry to interrupt 17 you.</p> <p>18 A. No, that's all right.</p> <p>19 Q. -- Exhibit 27, which would be back in this 20 first binder, please. Those are handwritten notes. Do 21 you recognize those?</p> <p>22 A. Not specifically. I recognize the handwriting.</p> <p>23 Q. Who is the handwriting?</p> <p>24 A. Chip Berthelot.</p> <p>25 Q. It says, "Notes from 9-6-99 conversation."</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 of '99. Is that something you would have reviewed 2 around that time?</p> <p>3 A. Yeah. I mean, this is my handwriting on it, 4 so...</p> <p>5 Q. Oh, okay.</p> <p>6 A. I expect I did.</p> <p>7 Q. What's Item No. 3? It says, "Gap to be 8 closed." Is that what you were talking about earlier --</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. -- the gap? Explain to me what A means, "Hard, 11 23 million, \$1.00 for \$1.00 up front."</p> <p>12 A. It would be conjecture. I expect hard means real dollars.</p> <p>13 Q. Uh-huh.</p> <p>14 A. Soft being dollars that may or may not occur.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay. Give me an example of what a -- how 16 does -- how do those numbers relate to the gap to be 17 closed?</p> <p>18 A. I guess -- again, this is conjecture on my 19 part.</p> <p>20 Q. Uh-huh.</p> <p>21 A. I mean, hard is probably identify specific 22 dollars that, you know, that we couldn't --</p> <p>23 Q. Is that -- is that maybe the \$20 million that</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 you were apart on this bid?</p> <p>2 A. That was probably it.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay. And what's the soft? How does the soft</p> <p>4 relate to the gap?</p> <p>5 A. Maybe it -- I'd be guessing.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 A. No, let me look at this. "Stop gap closures."</p> <p>8 Yeah, that's -- that's what I suspected. I mean,</p> <p>9 what -- what we were trying to do is come up with a way</p> <p>10 to close the gap outside of just increasing our price,</p> <p>11 you know, a revenue sharing arrangement that if the</p> <p>12 pipeline produced more revenue than we had modeled, that</p> <p>13 he could share in that. That was a creative way of, you</p> <p>14 know, allowing him to participate in the upside, if</p> <p>15 there was any.</p> <p>16 And I think he was giving a lot of value</p> <p>17 to that. He said he would.</p> <p>18 Q. And this document, Government Exhibit 28, is an</p> <p>19 internal document, correct, that was not shared -- I</p> <p>20 assume it was not shared with Mr. Langley?</p> <p>21 A. I -- I don't know. I don't think it was. Not</p> <p>22 to my knowledge, anyway.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay. On Item 4, "Hard gap closures," what's</p> <p>24 B? It says, "If PWC \$5 million; indemnity from</p> <p>25 Midcoast." What's that referring to?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 Q. Okay. And who would have prepared the</p> <p>2 document?</p> <p>3 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>4 Q. But -- and the only way you know that you</p> <p>5 reviewed it is that's your handwriting on it?</p> <p>6 A. Yeah.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. Item No. 6 -- well, let's look at the</p> <p>8 top. It says Summary of Essential Modifications to</p> <p>9 Merger Agreement Presented by Midcoast. So, would that</p> <p>10 be a modification to the agreement between Langley and</p> <p>11 Midcoast at this time or the agreement between Fortrend</p> <p>12 and Langley?</p> <p>13 A. I'd have the review this if you want me to try</p> <p>14 to answer that.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay. Just take a minute and look at it.</p> <p>16 Let me -- Item No. 2 seems to indicate it</p> <p>17 would be -- "Any Midcoast stock, if any, must be</p> <p>18 registered and freely tradable" would seem that would</p> <p>19 be -- indicate stock that may be issued to Bishop -- I</p> <p>20 mean to Langley, wouldn't it?</p> <p>21 A. Well, that's what I remember offering, some</p> <p>22 stock, but I'm -- what I'm trying to remember is if we</p> <p>23 offered stock to K-Pipe as well.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 A. We may have. I can't remember.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 A. I assume, again -- I mean, it's -- again, it's</p> <p>2 conjecture on my part, but I would assume he is</p> <p>3 anticipating what Fortrend could offer above and beyond</p> <p>4 what we could.</p> <p>5 Q. What's -- what's -- if PWC was --</p> <p>6 A. Meaning -- that's, again, conjecture, so...</p> <p>7 Q. Okay.</p> <p>8 A. I can't think of what else it would be.</p> <p>9 Q. I see. And then it says if -- what's Ruby</p> <p>10 Diablo? Did you ever hear that phrase during your --</p> <p>11 the negotiation or your due diligence?</p> <p>12 A. No idea.</p> <p>13 Q. That's a real code name?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah.</p> <p>15 Q. Go to Government Exhibit 30, which would be the</p> <p>16 next document. Do you recognize this document?</p> <p>17 A. Yeah.</p> <p>18 Q. Whose handwriting is that on the left?</p> <p>19 A. It's mine.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay. And it looks like it's dated around 9-9</p> <p>21 of '99; is that right?</p> <p>22 A. That's correct.</p> <p>23 Q. So I assume you would have reviewed it around</p> <p>24 that time?</p> <p>25 A. I assume.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 Q. How about provision 7, which says, "There may</p> <p>2 be an issue as to whether stockholder receiving an</p> <p>3 adequate tax letter is a condition to stockholder</p> <p>4 closing and whether Midcoast representation and warranty</p> <p>5 as to non-interference with stockholder's tax-free</p> <p>6 reorganization and capital gains/loss treatment is</p> <p>7 secured by an unperfected lien against Bishop stock." is</p> <p>8 that a provision that Langley asked for after Fortrend</p> <p>9 came into the picture or was that something that they</p> <p>10 asked for, Midcoast?</p> <p>11 A. I remember the issue. I just don't remember if</p> <p>12 it was before or after.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. Go to 35, please, Government Exhibit 35.</p> <p>14 This is a facsimile from Bryan Cave, specifically James</p> <p>15 Pryde, to Tom Palmisano and Craig Hoffman, correct?</p> <p>16 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>17 Q. And it looks like what's transmitted is a</p> <p>18 mutual confidentiality agreement between Bishop and</p> <p>19 Fortrend?</p> <p>20 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you know why Palmisano would be getting a</p> <p>22 copy of this from James Pryde?</p> <p>23 A. (Witness shakes head)</p> <p>24 Q. PWC didn't represent Fortrend, did it, in its</p> <p>25 dealings?</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 A. I know they got paid by Fortrend, so I don't 2 know if that indicates they represented them. 3 Q. Are you talking about PWC got paid by Fortrend? 4 A. I believe so. 5 Q. In conjunction with this transaction? 6 A. I believe so. 7 Q. And that was not a -- that was not a fee of 8 Midcoast's? 9 A. No. 10 Q. It was a fee of Fortrend? 11 A. I know Fortrend paid PWC. 12 Q. Okay. Let's go to 37, please. This is an 13 e-mail from -- I'm going to focus on the -- the e-mail 14 dated September 12, '99, from Becky Davis to Tom 15 Palmisano, Subject: Stock Purchase Agreement, and 16 following that is a draft stock purchase agreement 17 between Fortrend and Dennis Langley. Do you see that? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. I didn't -- do you know why Palmisano was 20 receiving a stock purchase agreement between Langley and 21 Fortrend? 22 A. No. Again -- I mean, again, I know he was 23 being paid by Fortrend, so I guess it doesn't surprise 24 me that he received it. 25 Q. Okay. Did he relay these draft -- a draft of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 closed. That's the \$23 million you saw on that other 2 page, the hard, the hard \$23 million. 3 Q. Uh-huh. 4 A. That's where that number came from. 5 Q. I see. Under Midcoast's offer of 9/3? 6 A. Correct. 7 Q. Okay. And then columns A and B over there, 8 what -- what are those, do you know? What do those 9 columns contemplate? 10 A. You know, possibly adjustments to certain 11 things. 12 Q. Have you had occasion to review this, this 13 document, or a document of this sort? 14 A. Yeah. I mean, I recall seeing it. 15 Q. Okay. Turn to Government Exhibit 41. That is 16 a fax from Fortrend to Chris Kaitson, correct? 17 A. That's correct. 18 Q. Dated September 20 of '99, and it looks like 19 it's transmitting the confidentiality agreement draft, 20 letter of intent, and other information. Would you have 21 reviewed this? Well, following is a -- the draft letter 22 of intent, it looks like, with your name at the top 23 there. Would you have reviewed this document? 24 A. I expect so. 25 Q. And then on the last page of the document there</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 the agreements, the stock purchase agreements to you at 2 Midcoast? 3 A. Tom specifically wouldn't, but, I mean, the 4 only time that we would get involved in the stock 5 purchase agreement was when there was something that was 6 going to pass through to us, from an asset purchase type 7 point, and if points needed to be negotiated. 8 Q. Government Exhibit 40, please. Do you 9 recognize this document? 10 A. I do. 11 Q. And is this something you would you have 12 prepared? 13 A. No. 14 Q. Who would have prepared it? 15 A. I believe it was Langley. 16 Q. Whose handwriting is on it? 17 A. That's Chip's. 18 Q. This is something that Langley prepared and 19 then forwarded to Midcoast? 20 A. I believe so. 21 Q. At the top, it shows -- it says "Alternate 22 Bogie." Do you know what that is? 23 A. That's the other offers that supposedly he was 24 receiving. He was basically just indicating it to us, 25 that our offer was not sufficient. That's gap to be</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 is some Fortrend information. It says Summary of Major 2 Corporate Transactions since 1990. 3 A. Yeah, I see. That's the list I was referring 4 to. 5 Q. Okay. What -- shows the year, type of 6 transaction, industry, size, and built-in gain. What's 7 the built-in gain component on the end? Do you 8 understand what that was? 9 A. No. 10 Q. You didn't understand what it was at the time? 11 A. I assumed -- well, no. I would be -- it would 12 be conjecture. 13 Q. Did you ask any questions about it to 14 Mr. Furman or Mr. Hoffman? 15 A. I don't recall asking. I don't know. 16 Q. Did reviewing this help you make your decision 17 on whether to go forward with Fortrend in the 18 transaction? 19 A. I expect so. As I stated earlier, the fact 20 that they had done multiple transactions and PWC was 21 referring them gave me sufficient comfort to -- to agree 22 to it. 23 Q. Okay. And then turn to 42, which I think we 24 determined or Mr. Stern determined yesterday that this 25 item was -- this document was transmitted along with the</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 facsimile Government Exhibit 41, but there are changes 2 made thereto and your signature on the second page. Is 3 that right?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. Do you recall seeing this document and 6 signing it?</p> <p>7 A. Clearly, I did.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. And you and Mr. Kaitson, I believe, made 9 changes to the document before you signed it; is that 10 right?</p> <p>11 A. I believe those are Kaitson's.</p> <p>12 Q. He testified to that yesterday. In the first 13 bullet point, it says, "Written information provided to 14 you as well as any additional information disclosed to 15 you or any of your representatives which contains or 16 otherwise reflects or is generated from such information 17 or documents," he calls it the evaluation material, 18 "will be used solely for the purpose of evaluating the 19 possible use of the transaction by you." What does he 20 mean by -- what's the letter mean by "use of the 21 transaction"?</p> <p>22 A. I don't know why he used those words.</p> <p>23 Q. You don't know what -- what he means by that?</p> <p>24 A. I don't know. I couldn't -- you'd have to ask 25 him.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 A. I mean, this, this list is the only thing that 2 we looked at before. This is the only thing that I saw 3 from Fortrend.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. Along with the two other pages? Weren't 5 there two other pages?</p> <p>6 A. Yeah, the --</p> <p>7 Q. Oh, okay.</p> <p>8 A. Yeah, who the --</p> <p>9 Q. The three pages here on Exhibit --</p> <p>10 A. -- the people were and their history, that's 11 the only information I ever saw on that.</p> <p>12 Q. Government Exhibit 43, please, is this -- this 13 is similar to the other spreadsheet we saw; is that 14 right?</p> <p>15 A. That's correct.</p> <p>16 Q. And it looks like the bottom right, it says 17 9-21-99, 4:43 p.m. And, again, was this something 18 prepared by Langley?</p> <p>19 A. I don't know for certain.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay. Would this have been -- did you ever 21 have anything like this, spreadsheets on your computer, 22 your system like this?</p> <p>23 A. Not that I recall, but -- not that I recall.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 A. But, you know, again, it's a long time ago.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 Q. Okay. And the evaluation material it 2 references, what would -- what would that have been?</p> <p>3 A. The evaluation material?</p> <p>4 Q. Uh-huh.</p> <p>5 A. I don't know specifically what he would be 6 referring to, other than information we had already seen 7 about Kansas Pipeline.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. Was there ever any kind of document or 9 prospectus that you received from Fortrend that would 10 have described exactly how it would buy stock of Bishop, 11 sell the assets, how the net operating losses would 12 minimize any or eliminate any taxable gain to them?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 A. Never saw anything like that.</p> <p>16 Q. On the second page, the second to the last 17 bullet point in the letter, again, he uses the phrases 18 "using the transaction."</p> <p>19 "If you do not enter into a transaction 20 with us using the transaction described in the 21 evaluation material, you will promptly return to us all 22 copies of the evaluation material."</p> <p>23 A. I really don't know what he's referring to.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. There's nothing -- you didn't get any 25 documents describing the "use of the transaction"?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 Q. Sure. Government Exhibit 44, tiny print.</p> <p>2 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you recognize this document?</p> <p>4 A. I do.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. Is this something that you would have 6 prepared?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Generally, tell me what is trying to be 9 accomplished here.</p> <p>10 A. I mean, we're basically -- this is the input 11 sheet.</p> <p>12 Q. Uh-huh.</p> <p>13 A. And your assumptions basically were inputted on 14 this page.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 A. And then whatever you -- whatever assumptions 17 you used would flow into the model on the second page.</p> <p>18 Q. All right. This -- I assume this was the model 19 that was used to help you and Midcoast assess the price 20 and the cost of the transaction; is that right?</p> <p>21 A. Correct.</p> <p>22 Q. Does that relate to the stock purchase or the 23 asset purchase?</p> <p>24 A. As you can see, I modeled where you can -- you 25 can toggle whether it was stock versus asset. This is</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

Page 90	Page 92
<p>1 stock purchase right down there on that and there is a 2 no or yes. 3 Q. Okay. So this was -- 4 A. No. 5 Q. This was not -- this was the asset purchase? 6 A. This was an asset purchase, right. 7 Q. Okay. Turn to Exhibit 50, please. Can you 8 tell me what the make whole premium was in this 9 transaction? 10 MR. STERN: The what? 11 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Well, it doesn't say "make 12 whole premium," but I thought the phrase is "make whole 13 premium," isn't it, that was an issue in this 14 transaction? I still don't understand. 15 A. Yeah, I'm trying to remember myself. 16 Q. If you recall. If not, that's fine. 17 A. Make whole. 18 Q. Let me ask you this. What -- this schedule, do 19 you know what this schedule is trying to accomplish? 20 A. I don't recall any more. I mean, at the time, 21 I probably would have been able to help you. 22 Q. Okay. 23 A. But I don't -- this is tax stuff that I'm not 24 as proficient in. 25 Q. Okay.</p>	<p>1 document will let us know. 2 A. I don't remember if they did or not. 3 Q. Okay. Well, turn the page. Is that anything 4 that looks familiar to you, DOJ 18088? 5 A. Yeah, I remember seeing this. 6 Q. Is that something prepared by you or your staff 7 or somebody else? 8 A. As I recall, I think it might have been 9 prepared by someone on Langley's staff. 10 Q. Okay. And then skipping to the last page of 11 that document, there's another Break-Even Alternatives 12 spreadsheet? 13 A. But then I think I -- I probably had this on my 14 computer at some point as well. 15 Q. Okay. Going to the last page, do you see that 16 Break-Even Alternatives spreadsheet again? 17 A. Uh-huh. 18 Q. Is that something that came from Langley or 19 from your office, from Midcoast? 20 A. I don't recall where it would have come from. 21 Q. Look at the HDrive\Midcoast\Break-even- 22 Alternative. Does that look familiar to you? 23 A. Break-even Alternative. I would guess, based 24 on that H\Midcoast\Break-EvenAlternative5, that came 25 from Langley's group, only because I don't know why I</p>
Page 91	Page 93
<p>1 A. Make whole I assume is -- 2 Q. Then turn the page, same exhibit. Is that a -- 3 something that you're familiar with? 4 A. Make whole, make whole. This is -- okay, 5 sorry. Make whole, this was on the -- the debt that was 6 outstanding. 7 Q. Uh-huh. 8 A. There was a pre-penalty payment essentially and 9 it was called a "make whole payment." 10 Q. All right. 11 A. That's what it was. Yeah, that's right. 12 Q. Okay. 13 A. That's right. And what I was trying to -- 14 yeah, what this was is that I had -- I insisted that 15 they share that liability for having to break those, 16 prepay those notes. 17 Q. And you're saying "they." Are you talking 18 about Langley? 19 A. Yeah, Langley at the time. It's -- 20 Q. Did they -- 21 A. This was early on in the transaction we're 22 talking about there. 23 Q. Did they end up sharing payment of that? 24 MR. STERN: Objection, form. 25 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) If you can't remember, the</p>	<p>1 would have a Midcoast folder. 2 Q. Who was -- who was preparing these kind of 3 things for Midcoast or for Langley, do you know? 4 A. He had one accountant-type guy that I dealt 5 with. 6 Q. Steve Korb? 7 A. Yes. Yes. 8 Q. Do you think that he may have prepared 9 something like this for Langley? 10 A. Wouldn't surprise me. 11 Q. Okay. In the bottom right corner, it says -- 12 there's calculations there headed up Fortrend Cost. Do 13 you know what -- what that is about? 14 A. Where? 15 Q. Not all the way to the bottom right, but just 16 move up a little bit, on the bottom right-hand side of 17 the spreadsheet. 18 A. Oh, the right-hand side? 19 Q. Yeah. It says Fortrend Cost. 20 A. Fortrend Cost. 21 Q. Uh-huh. It comes down to a calculation under 22 two alternatives of 6,055,640 and 6,255,640. 23 A. Uh-huh. 24 Q. Do you know what those figures relate to? 25 A. I'd be hypothecating. I assume that --</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 Q. Did you -- were you aware that Fortrend would 2 get a fee of 5 percent of the step-up in basis? 3 A. No. I think I recall questioning, you know, 4 what they could expect to make. 5 Q. Uh-huh. 6 A. And I think I recall being told that it was 7 generally in that area, which they anticipated making 8 the difference between buying and selling. 9 Q. The -- so you heard from somebody that they -- 10 their spread would be six, around \$6 million or so? 11 A. Well, that's -- I think I recall asking Tom -- 12 Q. Uh-huh. 13 A. -- what they expected, and I think Tom said 14 generally they'd get somewhere between 5 and 7 percent. 15 Q. Did you know how that was calculated? 16 A. Well, I assume this is how it's calculated. 17 Q. Okay. This 5 percent of the step-up in basis? 18 A. I think that's -- I think that's right. That's 19 what I have been told. 20 Q. Exhibit 51, it says Kansas Pipeline Company, 21 Disclosure Statement, Depreciation Difference, Carryover 22 Basis Versus Purchase Basis. Are you familiar with this 23 document? 24 A. I don't recall. I don't recall it. 25 Q. Do you think it would have come out of Midcoast</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 billing for the -- his work on the acquisition of the 2 Kansas Pipeline; is that correct? 3 A. Uh-huh, it does. 4 Q. And on the last page it looks like he billed 5 Midcoast \$127,062.50, page 884? 6 A. That's what it says. 7 Q. With the instruction "Please do not remit 8 payment until after January 1, 2000, so that 1099 will 9 be issued in 2000." Did you approve payment of this 10 invoice? 11 A. I don't believe so. 12 Q. Okay. Who would have normally done that? 13 A. Chris Kaitson, probably. 14 Q. I actually think he said you did that. 15 A. No, I would -- the attorney specifically asked 16 that I not approve their invoices any more, so... 17 Q. Were you scrutinizing them -- 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. -- too heavily? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Did you have occasion to review the invoice? 22 A. No, I don't recall looking at this. 23 Q. Would Kaitson have been in charge of that, too? 24 A. I would have thought that Kaitson would. I 25 mean, potentially Chip would have. I wouldn't think at</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 or out of your -- your office or your staff? 2 A. No, I don't think so. 3 Q. Okay. Do you recall seeing it? 4 A. I don't recall it right now. No, I don't recall seeing it. 5 Q. Hold your spot in that binder, but in the other 6 binder, go to Government Exhibit 150, please. 7 A. 150. 8 THE WITNESS: Could I take another quick 9 break, please? 10 MR. COFFIN: Sure. You guys want to break 11 for lunch real quick? 12 MR. STERN: Do you want to break for 13 lunch? 14 MS. PIPKIN: Yes. 15 (Lunch recess, 12:26 p.m. to 1:05 p.m.) 16 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Exhibit 150, which is in front 17 of you -- 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. -- this is invoice from Ron Chachere; is that 20 right? 21 A. Yes, it is. 22 Q. Dated November 19, 1999? 23 A. Uh-huh. 24 Q. And it looks like this is his invoice or</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 this point Dan would have, but he may have. I just know 2 that I didn't specifically review this. 3 Q. Okay. Look at page 5, at the exhibit, please. 4 A. Okay. 5 Q. There are various entries that Mr. Chachere 6 is -- looks like he put incredible detail into his 7 billings? 8 A. Uh-huh. 9 Q. Maybe that was the result of your scrutiny on 10 his -- on the lawyer's billings. But October 8, for 11 example, he says, "Receipt and review of revised 12 schedules to stock purchase agreement," and at this 13 point, I thought we talked earlier, based on review of 14 the PWC memo, that -- that Midcoast as of September 13 15 of '99, Midcoast did not engage in any further 16 discussions with Langley or his representatives 17 regarding the purchase of the Bishop Group stock? 18 A. Except as it related to items that would have 19 affected us as an asset purchaser. 20 Q. So that's why the entries that follow that 21 date -- 22 A. Uh-huh. And there were, as I recall. 23 Q. Uh-huh. 24 A. -- several areas that affected us, and so there 25 shortly was continuing discussion on those particular</p>

25 (Pages 94 to 97)

HUNDT REPORTING
214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

Page 98	Page 100
<p>1 areas.</p> <p>2 Q. And why wouldn't Mr. Chachere or anybody at</p> <p>3 Midcoast have made those -- would they have made those</p> <p>4 changes and proposed them to --</p> <p>5 A. Fortrend.</p> <p>6 Q. -- Fortrend and then Fortrend would propose</p> <p>7 them to --</p> <p>8 A. Uh-huh, yeah.</p> <p>9 Q. Or did it go both ways?</p> <p>10 A. Yeah. I mean, certainly, it would go both</p> <p>11 ways. As -- as Dennis would want something, you know,</p> <p>12 it would go through Fortrend and Fortrend would go</p> <p>13 through us. And if there was something that</p> <p>14 specifically dealt with us, we would -- we would deal</p> <p>15 with it.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. Go to page 7, October 27, '99 entry.</p> <p>17 So, for example, Chachere is continuing work on the</p> <p>18 project development work with Langley, work on revising</p> <p>19 guaranty agreements and stock purchase agreement with</p> <p>20 Attorney Pryde. So there are instances where Chachere</p> <p>21 is going directly to Attorney Pryde or to Langley on</p> <p>22 these agreements?</p> <p>23 A. If I recall, I mean, there are some things that</p> <p>24 dealt with us specifically. You know, these</p> <p>25 participation agreements specifically, I mean, we were</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Under the Kansas Pipeline heading, it looks</p> <p>3 like Mr. Berthelot spoke to the board about the</p> <p>4 acquisition, Mr. Tutcher did as well, and you too; is</p> <p>5 that right?</p> <p>6 A. That's correct.</p> <p>7 Q. Now, at this point, Fortrend and K-Pipe are</p> <p>8 involved, isn't that right, involved in the transaction?</p> <p>9 This is October 7th of '99.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. My question is: why wouldn't there be any</p> <p>12 discussion about Fortrend or K-Pipe -- or was there any</p> <p>13 discussion about Fortrend or K-Pipe in the meeting?</p> <p>14 A. I don't recall specifically if they were</p> <p>15 discussed.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. Would the -- would either Mr. Berthelot</p> <p>17 or Mr. Tutcher or you have advised the board that Midco</p> <p>18 was now pursuing an asset purchase from -- or Midcoast</p> <p>19 was purchasing an asset purchase from Fortrend or one of</p> <p>20 its affiliates?</p> <p>21 A. I expect they would have been advised.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you recall whether they were specifically</p> <p>23 advised?</p> <p>24 A. I don't recall the conversation, but...</p> <p>25 Q. You don't recall sitting in a board meeting</p>
Page 99	Page 101
<p>1 basically going after to assume those and agree to</p> <p>2 everything that was in there. So, yeah, we had a lot.</p> <p>3 Q. When you say participation agreements, were</p> <p>4 those the project development agreements?</p> <p>5 A. Yes. So we had a lot of input on the drafting</p> <p>6 of those.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. You can put that one aside for a minute.</p> <p>8 The -- go to Exhibit 66, please. This is</p> <p>9 a letter of intent between Midcoast and K-Pipe; is that</p> <p>10 right?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, it is.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you review this document before Mr. Tutcher</p> <p>13 signed it?</p> <p>14 A. I believe I would have.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you recall who drafted the agreement or the</p> <p>16 letter?</p> <p>17 A. I don't recall who did it.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. Government Exhibit 70, these are minutes</p> <p>19 to the board of directors meeting of Midcoast Energy</p> <p>20 dated October 7, '99, correct?</p> <p>21 A. Correct.</p> <p>22 Q. And I understand you were at this meeting; is</p> <p>23 that right?</p> <p>24 A. That's correct.</p> <p>25 Q. And you spoke to the board, apparently?</p>	<p>1 advising the board that we were going to change the</p> <p>2 structure of the strat -- transaction to an asset</p> <p>3 purchase going through Fortrend?</p> <p>4 A. I don't recall the conversation, but I expect</p> <p>5 it occurred.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay. And why do you expect that it would have</p> <p>7 occurred?</p> <p>8 A. Because it was a relevant part of the</p> <p>9 transaction.</p> <p>10 Q. Would you necessarily have told the board that</p> <p>11 Fortrend or one of its affiliates would be using net</p> <p>12 operating losses to offset any gain, income tax gain?</p> <p>13 A. I don't know if I would have got into that</p> <p>14 detail.</p> <p>15 Q. I'm going to refer you back to Government</p> <p>16 Exhibit 150, which is the Chachere invoice. It's in the</p> <p>17 other binder. The reason I'm going back and forth is</p> <p>18 I'm trying to follow this chronology.</p> <p>19 A. 150, okay.</p> <p>20 Q. Uh-huh. His October 9th and 10th of '99</p> <p>21 entries, it says, "Receipt and review of e-mail message</p> <p>22 from Attorney Pryde concerning constructive trust</p> <p>23 issues." What were the constructive trust issues?</p> <p>24 A. I have no clue.</p> <p>25 Q. What's a -- go to Exhibit 76, please. This is</p>

26 (Pages 98 to 101)

HUNDT REPORTING
214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

Page 102	Page 104
<p>1 a fax from Ron Chachere to Jim Pryde?</p> <p>2 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>3 Q. Dated 10-14-99, correct?</p> <p>4 A. Correct.</p> <p>5 Q. It looks like he's submitting some changes to 6 the stock purchase agreement, and this third page of 7 this exhibit refers to an intercreditor agreement. Do 8 you know what that is?</p> <p>9 A. I assume this is the notes that were 10 outstanding.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 A. And there was a question of whether they were 13 going to get paid off or not. These are the notes from 14 the make whole agreement.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay. At the bottom, "Tax Sharing Agreement. 16 Note: Richard Robert is having the tax sharing agreement 17 reviewed by Midcoast's tax advisors," do you recall what 18 that was about?</p> <p>19 A. I don't even recall the tax sharing agreement, 20 to be honest.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. And then back on the second page, 22 provision -- go back one page.</p> <p>23 A. All right.</p> <p>24 Q. Yeah. Provision 8.10, which is proposed --</p> <p>25 A. Tax treatment, yeah.</p>	<p>1 (The record was read as follows: 2 "QUESTION: Did Langley ever express any 3 concern to Midcoast that bringing Fortrend 4 in and doing the transaction through 5 K-Pipe could expose him to any challenges 6 by the IRS?")</p> <p>7 A. Did Langley express a concern that -- that 8 Fortrend buying the stock was going to cause him a 9 problem, is that -- am I repeating the question?</p> <p>10 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Uh-huh.</p> <p>11 A. I expect -- as I recall, he had some initial 12 concerns, which is, you know, why does -- why is this 13 going to happen and how does it affect me. But I 14 believe he, you know, got over his concerns after having 15 talked to his advisors.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. Did you ever, specifically you 17 personally, ever have any discussions with him or any of 18 his representatives about the issue?</p> <p>19 A. Well, I remember -- yeah, I remember discussing 20 Fortrend with him.</p> <p>21 Q. I'm talking about his concerns about the IRS 22 coming in and challenging his tax treatment.</p> <p>23 A. No, I never had discussions with him about 24 that.</p> <p>25 Q. Who communicated his concerns to you?</p>
Page 103	Page 105
<p>1 Q. Do you recall this issue with Langley?</p> <p>2 A. He wanted capital gains treatment.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>5 Q. What was his -- do you know what his -- what 6 was his concern?</p> <p>7 A. His concern was that somehow it would be 8 characterized as ordinary income, and he was adamant 9 that it be part of the agreement -- that it stipulate 10 that his gain was going to be capital gain.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you know why he had that concern? Because 12 if it's a tax sale or, I mean, a stock sale, it gets 13 capital gains treatment.</p> <p>14 A. Well, exactly. That's what we didn't 15 understand, and our -- and our advisors advised us, 16 yeah, go ahead and agree to it, because there's no other 17 way to interpret it.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. Did Langley ever express any concern to 19 Midcoast that bringing Fortrend in and doing the 20 transaction through K-Pipe could expose him to any 21 challenges by the IRS?</p> <p>22 MR. STERN: Objection, form.</p> <p>23 A. Could you repeat the question?</p> <p>24 MR. COFFIN: Read that one back for me, 25 please.</p>	<p>1 A. I expect it was Tom.</p> <p>2 Q. Turn to Government Exhibit 77, please. This is 3 an e-mail from you to Barry Davis; is that right, 77?</p> <p>4 A. That's correct.</p> <p>5 Q. And it says New Events Memo. That's the 6 subject in the subject line. The date is October 19th 7 of '99, and you're requesting, "Please comment on the 8 attached memo ASAP."</p> <p>9 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>10 Q. And attached to that is a memo from you to 11 Stephanie Pendleton; is that right?</p> <p>12 A. That's correct.</p> <p>13 Q. Who is Stephanie Pendleton?</p> <p>14 A. She was, I believe, in the credit department at 15 Bank of America.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. And who was Barry Davis?</p> <p>17 A. He is an attorney at Thompson & Knight, 18 representing the bank.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you recall sending this memo to 20 Ms. Pendleton and Mr. Davis?</p> <p>21 A. I recall the memo, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. And in the -- where it says, "However," I guess 23 that's the second paragraph, "the seller is requiring 24 that Midcoast provide a tax indemnification to the 25 seller which states," and it goes on to talk about how</p>

27 (Pages 102 to 105)

HUNDT REPORTING
214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 Langley wanted the provision indemnifying him in the 2 event his capital gains treatment was challenged -- 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. -- I guess Langley wanted a security interest 5 in the KPC assets, is that right, to protect him? 6 A. Uh-huh, yep. 7 Q. Was that ever -- was that granted to him? 8 A. It was. 9 Q. And the bank signed off on that? 10 A. Because they agreed. 11 Q. And the second or third to the last sentence 12 says, "We are receiving an opinion from PWC and the 13 seller is receiving an opinion from Ernst & Young which 14 provides us a lot of comfort that the seller will 15 receive capital gains treatment." Did you ever receive 16 that opinion from PWC? 17 A. I know we received an opinion from PWC and I -- 18 I don't remember if it specifically addressed the 19 seller's tax treatment or not, but it may have. 20 Q. Okay. 78, letter from Dennis Langley to K-Pipe 21 Holdings Partners, dated October 21 of '99. Do you 22 recall receiving this letter or seeing this letter? 23 There is a -- if you'll look, there is a fax cover sheet 24 that shows he sent it to you as well. Langley sent the 25 letter to you on 10-21-99.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 the next binder, I believe. 2 A. Okay. 3 Q. Okay. This is an e-mail, looks like a series 4 of e-mails, but it looks like you wrote one or you sent 5 an e-mail on October 30 of '99 to Chris Kaitson. Do you 6 see that on the front page of Government Exhibit 100? 7 A. Exhibit 100, Gary Wilcox to Tom Palmisano? 8 Okay. 9 Q. Okay. And the first sentence says, "There has 10 been a change to the deal based on PWC's objection to 11 characterizing the supplemental payment of \$13.75 as 12 capital gain. Dennis has agreed to report the amount as 13 ordinary income." Do you see that? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Why did PWC object to characterizing the 16 supplemental payment as capital gain? 17 A. I suppose because of -- because we wanted -- 18 because of how we wanted to characterize it on our 19 taxes. 20 Q. Do you recall what the \$13.75 payment was for? 21 That's 13.75 million, isn't it? 22 A. Yes. Yeah. I believe that number turned into 23 13 million and it was the -- the payments to terminate 24 the project development agreement. 25 Q. Uh-huh.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p> <p>1 A. I don't recall seeing it. 2 Q. Uh-huh. 3 A. But... 4 Q. You don't dispute it was passed to you? 5 A. No, I don't dispute it. I kind of -- I do 6 recall things dragging -- you know, things dragging on 7 longer than Langley liked and he started putting 8 ultimatums on us. 9 Q. Okay. And, specifically, why would he, 10 Langley, mail you at Midcoast or fax to you a copy of 11 this letter? 12 A. Because he knew -- I assume because he knew 13 that we were doing a transaction with K-Pipe. 14 Q. I know there is a silent yes that's going on in 15 your brains as I turn each page quickly. 16 A. Does that mean you can't go back to them after 17 you have turned them? 18 Q. I will not make that promise. 19 MR. STERN: It's the rule, we shouldn't 20 let you. 21 MR. CROKE: It's one of those ground rules 22 you made earlier. 23 MR. COFFIN: Start making those in the 24 next few depositions. 25 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) 100, please. That would be in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p> <p>1 A. And, as I recall, 3 million was simply added. 2 We agreed to pay K-Pipe 3 million more. And 10 million 3 was paid in January of the following year, I believe, to 4 terminate the project development agreement. 5 Q. Paid to K-Pipe or paid to Langley? 6 A. It was paid to Langley. The project 7 development agreement was between Kansas Pipeline and 8 Langley. 9 Q. By the time you closed the deal with -- the 10 transaction with K-Pipe, was it already known that you 11 would not or that you would exercise the option on the 12 project development agreement? 13 A. No, principally because we didn't have the 14 money to exercise it. We actually had to go do an 15 equity offering to get the money to pay it. 16 Q. The additional 10 million it would have been? 17 A. Correct. 18 Q. The next page of that document looks like -- I 19 think it begins on the first page. It's an e-mail from 20 Gary Wilcox to several people, and I don't know if your 21 name is on that distribution. 22 A. Yeah, it is. 23 Q. Okay. And, like I said, it's from Gary Wilcox, 24 and he's making changes to the stock or proposing 25 changes to the stock purchase agreement, right?</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 A. The option agreement. 2 Q. Do you see where he says, "To reflect the 3 foregoing, the following changes should be made," and he 4 has No. 1, Stock Purchase Agreement? 5 A. True, yes. 6 Q. Okay. Under No. 2, Guaranty by KPC. After the 7 a. and the b., he has, "Note that the option agreement 8 must not be guaranteed by Midcoast pursuant to the 9 parent guarantee." Do you know why that was the case? 10 A. I don't even remember what the option agreement 11 was, to be honest. 12 Q. Okay. Turn the page, please. 13 A. The option -- well, the option agreement may 14 have been to -- to terminate. Is that the option 15 agreement, to terminate the project development 16 agreement? 17 Q. I think so, uh-huh. 18 MR. STERN: I think that's right. 19 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) And on the next page, under 20 Stock Purchase Agreement, Item No. 3, it says, "It is 21 critical to Midcoast's tax position that The Bishop 22 Group, Ltd. is not liquidated by Fortrend for at least 23 two years." Do you recall that issue? 24 A. Peripherally, I remember. Yeah, I remember 25 reading this, so...</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 adjustment and through that they would retain those 2 anyways. 3 Q. 105, e-mail from Kaitson to various people, 4 including you, and it looks like he was forwarding an 5 e-mail from Gary to Chris and to yourself. Looks like 6 you were cc'd. In the second paragraph, it says, "The 7 third guarantee gave me the most heartburn. Obviously, 8 I do not want to see Midcoast, the asset buyer, 9 providing a guarantee of certain obligations under the 10 stock purchase agreement." Why is that? Do you know 11 why? 12 A. Why he wouldn't want us, the asset buyer, to 13 provide a guarantee of obligations under the stock 14 purchase agreement? 15 Q. Right. 16 A. Principally because we weren't a party to the 17 stock purchase agreement, I assume. 18 Q. Did Midcoast guarantee other obligations in the 19 project development agreements, other obligations of 20 K-Pipe? 21 A. Did Midcoast guarantee obligations of K-Pipe? 22 Q. Uh-huh. 23 A. Under the project development agreements? 24 Q. Yeah. 25 A. That we may have, because they were going to be</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 Q. Do you recall why it was critical to Midcoast's 2 tax position, what their reasoning was behind that? 3 A. I don't remember the tax reasoning. I don't 4 remember the tax reasoning. 5 Q. Okay. And under Item No. 4, under Purchase and 6 Sale Agreement, it says, "I will be sending comments on 7 the agreement shortly, but I would like K-Pipe to think 8 about retaining some of the receivables that are 9 currently in KPC." Do you know why he was making that 10 suggestion? 11 A. I'm not sure why he's making the suggestion, 12 but clearly they did. I mean, as the stock purchaser, 13 they -- as I recall, there was a receivable, a tax 14 receivable that they retained. 15 Q. What kind of tax? State? 16 A. Might have been, yeah. I can't -- 17 Q. State tax? 18 A. Might have been a state tax or -- 19 Q. Why would he suggest that they retain those? 20 A. I don't know, because they were going to 21 anyways. I guess he hadn't worked through the working 22 capital adjustment or something. 23 Q. How would that be? 24 A. Maybe he wasn't -- I mean, maybe he didn't 25 consider that there was going to be a working capital</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 transferred to us. 2 Q. Okay. Was it -- was there a provision in those 3 guarantees that somehow guaranteed the provisions of the 4 stock purchase agreement with Langley? 5 A. Not that I'm aware of. 6 Q. The next paragraph, he says, "What I don't want 7 to see is just a naked guarantee by Midcoast of KPC's 8 guarantee of the tax indemnity. It helps to have 9 Midcoast one step removed from KPC by having the 10 assumption agreement in between. It also helps to have 11 the Midcoast guarantee arise as part of the change of 12 control provisions of the SPA." Do you know what he was 13 talking about there? 14 A. Yeah, I think it's just that, that he wants our 15 guarantees to arise out of a change of control, not 16 beforehand. 17 Q. Why was Langley asking for them beforehand? 18 A. Because Langley would ask for everything under 19 the sun. 20 Q. 107, please. This is an e-mail from Gary 21 Wilcox to -- I think it was cut off. I don't see who 22 it's too, actually, but within that is another e-mail 23 from you to Gary Wilcox dated 11-1 of '99. It says, 24 "The agreement is supposed to contain language to 25 include that he will receive a 1099 for the payment. I</p>

29 (Pages 110 to 113)

HUNDT REPORTING
214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 have not read the agreement. Have you? Is it worded 2 appropriately?" What does that have to do with? 3 A. That's the \$10 million -- 4 Q. Termination? 5 A. -- termination. 6 Q. 109, please. This is an e-mail from 7 Mr. Palmisano to Kaitson and others, including you. 8 Within it it looks like forwarded is another e-mail from 9 Kaitson to several others, and down below, Item No. 3, 10 it says, "Stock Purchase Agreement. Add a 11 representation/covenant in the SPA to the effect that 12 K-Pipe has no plan or intention to liquidate The Bishop 13 Group, Ltd. and in any event will not liquidate such 14 corporation for at least two years." 15 And then next to that, handwritten, it 16 says, "Jim, this needs to be done. Ron." 17 A. Uh-huh. 18 Q. Why was that provision so important? 19 A. Again, it comes from that other e-mail that 20 Wilcox had drafted. 21 Q. Wilcox never explained to you why the provision 22 needed to be inserted? 23 A. I don't recall why it was important. I don't 24 know if it was a legal or a tax issue. 25 Q. Okay. Go to 115, Exhibit 115, please. This is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 A. Yeah, that's right. 2 Q. Do you recall -- 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. -- you said you had required that? 5 A. That's right. 6 Q. So why would another engagement letter be 7 required for this particular transaction? 8 A. As I recall -- I'm not sure why they felt it 9 necessary to send another letter. 10 Q. Did you have a discussion with them about it, 11 with Mr. Wilcox, Mr. Palmisano? 12 A. Well, the only thing I recall is that -- 13 that -- that PWC's fees were to be paid by Fortrend and 14 that's really all that I cared about. 15 Q. And the second paragraph of the signature page 16 says, "In the event, through our efforts, we have 17 brought extraordinary value to the transaction and you 18 agree that this is the case, our total fees for the 19 services described herein will be commensurate with that 20 value." Did you think that they brought extraordinary 21 value to the transaction? 22 A. Extraordinary value? Yeah, I thought they 23 brought a lot of value to the transaction. You know, 24 I'm not a tax person, so... 25 Q. And you were -- and this letter says that their</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 a letter from Price Waterhouse Coopers to Midcoast 2 Energy, specifically you, Mr. Robert, dated November 5 3 of 1999, correct? 4 A. Correct. 5 Q. And the first page you'll notice is redacted in 6 the middle, the second page is an unredacted version of 7 the first, and then signed on the third page by Price 8 Waterhouse Coopers and you, correct? 9 A. Correct. 10 Q. Dated 11-5 of '99. Do you recall signing this 11 letter? 12 A. Clearly, I did. 13 Q. Do you recall why another -- why this 14 engagement letter was received from PWC on that date? 15 A. Why was it was received on that date as opposed 16 to another date? 17 Q. Wasn't there an engagement letter already in 18 place for PWC to do consulting and special project type 19 work? 20 A. I think it suggested that there would be an 21 additional letter to the extent there was additional 22 services. 23 Q. Oh, I thought you had negotiated a \$65 rate or 24 a 65 percent rate in that initial letter for special 25 projects and additional consulting services?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 fees would be commensurate with that value. How was it 2 determined what their fee would be? 3 A. I have no idea. And I didn't care, because I 4 wasn't paying them. 5 Q. Did you have to approve a specific amount that 6 would be distributed to them? 7 A. No. 8 Q. Who would approve that amount? 9 A. That was between the seller and PWC. 10 Q. So you're saying K-Pipe -- 11 A. Uh-huh. 12 Q. -- would have authorized that payment? 13 A. Yep. 14 Q. Was PWC representing K-Pipe or Midcoast? 15 A. They represented Midcoast. 16 Q. How do you think K-Pipe got the funds to pay 17 PWC? 18 A. Proceeds received from the seller. 19 Q. So, was the sales price increased to pay for 20 PWC's fees? 21 A. No, it was not. 22 Q. Was it worked into the calculation of how much 23 you would pay K-Pipe for the assets? 24 A. No, it was not. 25 Q. But you were aware that they would be paid from</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 the sales proceeds? 2 A. That's correct. 3 Q. Okay. What is extraordinary value? 4 A. Very subjective, obviously. 5 Q. Did you consider what it was when you signed 6 the -- the agreement? 7 A. You know, as I mentioned to you, this simply 8 said that someone else was going to pay the fees and I 9 was happy to sign. 10 Q. If somebody else was going to pay the fees, 11 then why would you need to sign the agreement? 12 A. Because they would be working for me and yet 13 someone else would be paying. I guess they wanted that 14 arrangement understood. That's conjecture. 15 Q. It says, "If you do not agree that we have 16 brought extraordinary value to the transactions, our 17 fees will be based on the hours we spent in connection 18 with this matter and billed at our standard hourly 19 billing rates." Did you ever discuss with them whether 20 they should get the extraordinary value fee or the 21 standard customary hourly fee? 22 A. No, because, clearly, I would -- it's pretty 23 clear which one I'd say they brought to the table. 24 Q. Did you ever have a conversation prior to 25 closing the K-Pipe transaction with PWC about how the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 Q. So there was no concern in between the time you 2 closed the transaction and the time you got the -- 3 A. No, because I knew I was going to get it. It 4 was just a matter of documenting the evidence. 5 Q. Did you get an invoice from PWC for their fees 6 that they were paid in this transaction? 7 A. Did I receive an invoice? 8 Q. Uh-huh. Or did Midcoast? 9 A. No. 10 Q. Was there an additional fee for the tax opinion 11 that you got? 12 A. No. 13 Q. Did anybody at Midcoast internally research the 14 issues addressed in the tax opinion from PWC? 15 A. No. 16 Q. So that was either a -- even before receiving 17 the issues or the tax opinion, nobody at Midcoast did 18 any research on the propriety or impropriety of this 19 transaction with K-Pipe? 20 A. I don't -- we didn't have a tax person, per se, 21 on staff to do so.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE WITNESS: I don't know, when did you 23 come on board, Jana, if you remember?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MS. JORDAN: Late '01.</p> <p>25 A. Okay. So, yeah, obviously, it was late after</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 role of Fortrend in the transaction might be viewed by 2 the IRS? 3 A. How the role of Fortrend would be viewed in the 4 eyes of the IRS? Not specifically, but that's certainly 5 why I wanted an opinion on the transaction, I mean, 6 so... 7 Q. You were -- 8 A. Yeah, it was discussed via that opinion, I 9 suppose. 10 Q. You were aware that the IRS could challenge the 11 transaction? 12 A. Yeah, the IRS can challenge anything. 13 Q. Was that a concern of yours? 14 A. Not really, no. I mean, you know, with the 15 opinion in hand and having seen all these other 16 transactions take place, I wasn't really too concerned. 17 Q. Well, when you say "opinion in hand," what do 18 you mean by that? 19 A. The more likely than not opinion that I got 20 from PWC. 21 Q. Did you get it -- you didn't get that opinion 22 prior to closing the K-Pipe transaction, did you? 23 A. Not prior, no. 24 Q. How long did it take them to provide that? 25 A. It took a while, as I recall.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p> <p>1 that. 2 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Okay. Did you sign tax returns 3 on behalf of Midcoast? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. And you would have signed a '99 return as well? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Did Midcoast seek out an opinion on the 8 transaction from somebody other than PWC? 9 A. No. 10 Q. Anybody else that was not involved in the 11 transaction? 12 A. No. 13 Q. Go to 130. Government Exhibit 130, these are 14 the board of directors meeting minutes from Midcoast 15 dated November 8th of '99, correct? 16 A. Correct. 17 Q. And did you attend that meeting? 18 A. I did. 19 Q. There's more discussion about the Kansas 20 Pipeline acquisition; is that right? 21 A. There is. 22 Q. And Mr. Berthelot opened the meeting by noting 23 that management believed it was necessary from the board 24 to re-approve the Kansas Pipeline acquisition because it 25 had changed sufficiently since the board originally</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p> <p>1 approved the deal, saying that the primary difference 2 concerned the continuing upside sharing and business 3 development agreements which had been substantially 4 eliminated. It says, "Consideration of purchase price 5 had been increased by 13.6 million." Was that a correct 6 statement?</p> <p>7 A. If he's referring to the option agreements, 8 that would be -- we agreed to -- to have the option to 9 terminate those if it would cost us that much money.</p> <p>10 Q. It says, "The purchase price had been increased 11 by \$13.6 million."</p> <p>12 A. Well, that's not accurate.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you -- I think you said earlier you had an 14 opportunity to review these minutes in draft form?</p> <p>15 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>16 Q. And then make suggestions to Mr. Herbst?</p> <p>17 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>18 Q. I assume you had the opportunity to do that 19 with this document?</p> <p>20 A. Possibly.</p> <p>21 Q. There's still no mention of K-Pipe in the board 22 of director meeting minutes. Is there any reason that 23 you can think of?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. No mention of Fortrend either; is that right?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 Were you aware or had you heard of these 2 entities at that time?</p> <p>3 A. No, I had not.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. Turn the page. There is an instruction 5 to wire Price Waterhouse Coopers \$8,743. Do you see 6 that?</p> <p>7 A. I do.</p> <p>8 Q. Are you aware of that wire transfer?</p> <p>9 A. Nope.</p> <p>10 Q. Turn the page. There is another wire 11 instruction to NationsBank on behalf of or for credit to 12 Price Waterhouse Coopers of \$950,000. Were you aware of 13 that amount?</p> <p>14 A. I was aware of that amount.</p> <p>15 Q. You knew that Price Waterhouse Coopers was 16 going to make \$950,000 from this transaction?</p> <p>17 A. Gary Wilcox showed that to me at closing.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. And what was your reaction?</p> <p>19 A. Good for you.</p> <p>20 Q. You don't know why the separate wire of \$8,743?</p> <p>21 A. No idea.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you ever wonder if Fortrend's payment of 23 PWC's fees would compromise the relationship that K -- 24 Price Waterhouse Coopers had with Midcoast?</p> <p>25 A. From a legal perspective?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p> <p>1 A. There is not.</p> <p>2 Q. Go to Exhibit 145, please. I'll represent to 3 you these are various wire transfer requests and 4 authorizations related to K-Pipe and Midcoast's purchase 5 of assets from K-Pipe. Go to the bottom right-hand 6 corner, there are some DOJ Bates stamp numbers. Go to 7 626, please.</p> <p>8 A. There it is, okay.</p> <p>9 Q. This was dated November 10 of '99 to Rabobank. 10 Looks like it's from Larry Austin; is that right?</p> <p>11 A. That's correct.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you know who Larry Austin was?</p> <p>13 A. I heard -- I had heard of him as a principal in 14 Fortrend, I think.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you ever meet him?</p> <p>16 A. I think at the closing I met him.</p> <p>17 Q. In New York?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. There are a couple wire instructions 20 there to -- of a million-four, approximately?</p> <p>21 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>22 Q. And one is to Cronulla Corporation, the other 23 one is to Ashfield International, Ltd.?</p> <p>24 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>25 Q. Cronulla is C-R-O-N-U-L-L-A.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p> <p>1 Q. No, not from a legal perspective; just from a 2 whose best interest were they working for.</p> <p>3 A. No, I never -- I never questioned that. 4 Would this be a good time for a short 5 break?</p> <p>6 Q. It would be a great time.</p> <p>7 A. All right.</p> <p>8 (Recess from 2:00 p.m. to 2:05 p.m.)</p> <p>9 MR. COFFIN: All right. Let's get back 10 on.</p> <p>11 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Mr. Robert, regarding the 12 project development agreements in these transactions --</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. -- how did those come about, do you recall?</p> <p>15 A. They were -- as I recall, they were Dennis 16 Langley's creations.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay. And those were -- were those actually 18 executed by Midcoast or were they executed by K-Pipe?</p> <p>19 A. K-Pipe. I believe they were executed by 20 K-Pipe.</p> <p>21 Q. But at that time you knew that Midcoast would 22 inherit those; is that right?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. So, Midcoast was actively involved in 25 negotiations of the -- of the PDAs; is that right?</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 126</p> <p>1 A. Correct. 2 Q. And when -- what was the status of the -- of 3 the finalization of the PDAs at the time Midcoast 4 decided that it no longer wanted to engage in these 5 agreements with Langley? 6 A. Towards the end. 7 Q. Okay. Before -- before closing, I assume? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Okay. And it was determined that there be a 10 13.75 million payment to buy Langley out of those 11 agreements, basically? 12 A. Essentially, but I think the number was reduced 13 to 13. 14 Q. So, 3 million was added to the stock purchase 15 price? 16 A. I -- yeah, we agreed to pay K-Pipe 3 million 17 more, which -- and I assume that then went to Langley. 18 Q. That they passed through to Langley? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. And then 10 million, 10.75 million or whatever 21 the number was, was paid later? 22 A. Yeah, maybe it was. 23 Q. Okay. How was the -- how were those two 24 amounts determined? How was it determined that 25 3 million would go to the purchase price and 10 million</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 128</p> <p>1 Sell assets by corp. for cash; 2, Then sell stock to 2 Midco; 3, Midco injects loss assets into corp. Corp. 3 sells. Midco takes risk." Do you see that? 4 A. I do. 5 Q. Did you ever have any discussions with anybody 6 at PWC about injecting loss assets into the corporation? 7 A. No. 8 Q. Did Fortrend ever discuss with you or anyone at 9 Midcoast, as far as you know, about the IRS views of 10 incorporating them into the transaction? 11 A. No. 12 Q. Go back one page to 1289. 13 A. 1289? 14 Q. Uh-huh. 15 A. Oh, back, okay. 16 Q. There's a heading there that says Critical 17 Factors in Avoiding Agency I? 18 A. Uh-huh. 19 Q. It says, "No written agreement with S or B 20 evidencing agency rel." I assume that's relationship. 21 "No agreement or even LOI between S or B when I gets 22 involved." And there's several other items down there 23 listed. Was there ever any discussion with anybody at 24 PWC or Fortrend about critical factors in avoiding 25 agency relationship with Fortrend?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 127</p> <p>1 would be paid later? 2 A. It was what we could afford at the time, I 3 believe. 4 Q. So it was simply a matter of not having the 5 finances to pay the entire 13 million? 6 A. I believe so. That was the principal factor, 7 as I recall. 8 Q. I'm going to test your eyes with Government 9 Exhibit 201. 10 A. 201. 11 Q. Uh-huh. 12 A. Oh, 201, there you go. 13 MR. STERN: That's another way to look at 14 it. 15 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) It's not clipped, but it's 16 going to be all those handwritten notes; okay? 17 A. All these handwritten notes? 18 Q. And what I'll do is tell you where to go. I'm 19 looking at the PWC numbers at the bottom right. 20 Okay. Go to PWC 1288. And these are 21 notes from Price Waterhouse Coopers, by the way. In the 22 middle of the page, there's a -- there's two brackets. 23 The second bracket, do you see that? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. The handwritten notes appear to say, "Now, 1,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p> <p>1 A. No, there wasn't so much -- I mean, it wasn't 2 specifically characterized as "avoiding agency 3 relationship," but it was certainly very clear that 4 there had to be an arm's length transaction between both 5 parties. 6 Q. Okay. And the middle or in the middle of that 7 list, it says, "Better if I retains some signif -- 8 significant, I assume -- "assets such as A/Rs --" 9 A. A/R. 10 Q. -- which are account receivable, "to interfere 11 with step trans doctrine." 12 And we saw that e-mail earlier where 13 Wilcox was suggesting that receivables be retained by 14 K-Pipe. Do you remember having any discussion with 15 Wilcox or Fortrend or anybody else at PWC about 16 retaining significant assets to make this transaction -- 17 avoid -- to allow this transaction to avoid the step 18 transaction doctrine? 19 A. I don't recall a specific conversation. 20 Q. Are you familiar with the phrase "step 21 transaction doctrine"?</p> <p>22 A. Now that you have mentioned it, I do -- I do 23 recall having seen it. 24 Q. Having seen it? 25 A. Yeah. I don't readily --</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p> <p>1 Q. Oh, seen the phrase? 2 A. Seen the phrase, heard of the phrase. 3 Q. Any discussion with Wilcox about the step 4 transaction doctrine? 5 A. Probably I heard it, you know, after this all 6 came about and the IRS getting involved. 7 Q. Did you have any discussions with either 8 Fortrend or PWC concerning Fortrend's fee for providing 9 or their involvement in this transaction? 10 A. No. 11 Q. We talked about the 5 percent we saw earlier on 12 the schedule? 13 A. Right. I mean, I certainly wouldn't 14 characterize it as a fee. 15 Q. Uh-huh. 16 A. It was what they expected to make as a -- you 17 know, the difference between what we would pay versus 18 what they would have to pay. 19 Q. Was there any -- ever any discussion about 20 paying the 5 percent that Fortrend was expecting through 21 the Butcher Interest Partnership? 22 A. No. 23 Q. Go to 1306, PWC 1306, at the bottom. On the 24 top, the top of that page it has Richard underlined, 25 correct?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p> <p>1 A. Okay. I've read as best I can. 2 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Anything refresh your 3 recollection as to any discussions you may have had with 4 anybody at PWC? 5 A. Yeah, we -- I mean, we certainly talked to them 6 about the issues that we were having. I mean, it says 7 that -- you know, it talks about our initial bid, though 8 I think that's the 184 -- 9 Q. Uh-huh. 10 A. -- that we have in our initial offer. And 11 since then, based on our due diligence, we lowered it 12 12 million and then another 5 million, and that's what 13 created such a large gap to begin with. And we -- it 14 says we would be willing to pay that reduced amount for 15 the stock. 16 And then, you know, reason -- I guess the 17 reason is it was uneconomical to do it for any more than 18 that. And the rates, the rate case they were in and the 19 legal issues gave us concern about things going forward. 20 It talks about Dennis's idea the ability to do future 21 projects, about bridging the gap. 22 Q. Let me stop you. Was Midcoast involved then in 23 determining how much Fortrend needed to pay for 24 Langley's stock? 25 A. No. We knew -- we knew what Dennis wanted. It</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p> <p>1 A. Uh-huh. 2 Q. Certain notes below that? 3 MR. STERN: What page? Oh, I'm sorry. 4 MR. COFFIN: 1306. 5 MR. STERN: I was looking at 1305. 6 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) There is a dash there, and it 7 says "better with us." It's about one, two, three, 8 four, five -- eight lines down or so. Do you see that? 9 A. Uh-huh, I do. 10 Q. "Better with us," and it says, "Agreed that 11 Fortr's," F-O-R-T-R-apostrophe-S, "bid has to be greater 12 than 5M." Do you know what that meant? 13 MR. STERN: Objection, form. It's hardly 14 obvious that's what it says. 15 MR. COFFIN: It's clear to me. 16 A. "Better with us. Agreed that Fortrend's" -- it 17 would be conjecture on my part, but it could be meaning 18 that -- that their bid has to be greater than 5 million 19 more than ours. 20 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Okay. Do you remember having 21 any discussions with anybody at PWC about -- look at the 22 matters listed there on this page and see if you had any 23 discussions with PWC about these items. 24 A. It's a little hard to read. 25 MR. CROKE: Uh-huh.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p> <p>1 just talks about other bidders still in the picture. 2 Q. How did Midcoast determine how much to pay for 3 the assets of Kansas Pipeline? 4 A. It was negotiated with K-Pipe. 5 Q. Was there first done some kind of modeling that 6 you said -- 7 A. Sure. 8 Q. -- to determine what amount it should be? 9 A. Sure. I mean, we modeled. We modeled the 10 transaction different ways. 11 Q. Did you place any good will on the, you know -- 12 you didn't pay just the net asset value, did you, or 13 market value? 14 A. No. I mean we looked at IRR principally when 15 we were doing our modeling and the effect on EPS and 16 things like that. 17 Q. Okay. IRR is -- 18 A. Internal rate of return. 19 Q. Okay. EPS? 20 A. Earnings per share. 21 Q. So, essentially, is it a discounted cash flow 22 type method that you use? 23 A. We looked at discounted cash flow, PV-10 24 values, like that. 25 Q. PV?</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p> <p>1 A. Present value, discounted at 10 percent. 2 Q. 10 percent? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Why 10 percent? 5 A. It's just a standard. 6 Q. Okay. Did you discuss the -- I assume you 7 discussed the involvement of Fortrend in the transaction 8 with Bank of America? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Was it -- did anybody at Bank of America have 11 any concerns about using Fortrend in this transaction? 12 MR. STERN: Objection, form. 13 A. The bank was not concerned, to my knowledge, 14 about Fortrend's participation. 15 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Okay. Was there a gentleman by 16 the name of T. Hardy or Ty Hardy at the bank that you 17 were dealing with? 18 A. No, not that I recall. 19 Q. Okay. Was -- K-Pipe was -- financed its -- the 20 purchase of the stock from Langley with a loan from 21 Rabobank; is that correct? 22 A. To my knowledge. 23 Q. And isn't it true that before Rabobank would 24 fund that loan that it required Midcoast put up \$200 25 million in escrow with Rabobank?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p> <p>1 220 million; held at Rabobank. And then at the bottom, 2 it talks about the transaction is contemplated as 3 follows. I know it's difficult to read. 4 A. Yeah. 5 Q. But I'm more focused on the next page. At the 6 top, it says, "2. Prior to Rabobank advancing the 7 money, Midcoast Energy, Inc. has placed an amount of 8 \$200 million in an escrow account held at Rabobank. 9 This escrow account is pledged to Rabobank." Is that 10 accurate? 11 A. That's what it says. 12 Q. Is that something you recall or don't recall? 13 A. I don't recall forwarding \$200 million to do an 14 escrow account. 15 Q. Do you know if that did or didn't happen, 16 eventually? 17 A. Again, I don't recall it happening. 18 Q. Okay. 19 A. I mean, it's fathomable that we -- when we paid 20 K-Pipe, we paid it into an account held at Rabo, but... 21 Q. But you don't think that Midcoast -- 22 A. I mean, we didn't do it with the intention of 23 it being some sort of escrow and pledged against there 24 being able to borrow it. 25 Q. Was there -- would it surprise you if that's</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p> <p>1 A. I don't recall that. 2 MR. COFFIN: I'm going to have to break 3 the rule and go backwards on exhibits. 4 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Go to Exhibit 96. It should be 5 in the first binder. This is very hard to read, too, I 6 know. This is from Rabobank. It's a summary. At the 7 top, it says Appendix 8, references a bunch of letters 8 and numbers, and it says Meeting Rabobank International 9 Credit Committee, dated October 29, 1999, Summary of 10 Credit Report dated October 22, 1999, and additional 11 memorandum dated October 27, '99, both by Mr. C.J. 12 Kortlandt, K-O-R-T-L-A-N-D-T, of New York branch. 13 Client is K-Pipe Holdings Partners. Do you see that? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. And it's the application. It says, "An up to 16 30 days cash secured term loan of \$215 million," 17 correct? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. And the purpose is to allow K-Pipe to complete 20 a stock purchase agreement between K-Pipe and the 21 shareholders of Bishop Group, Ltd., a Kansas 22 corporation. Existing exposure, None. Total exposure 23 in -- what's it say, included application? Principal, 24 U.S. dollars 215 million. Existing protection, none. 25 Proposed protection, Pledged escrow account, U.S. dollar</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p> <p>1 the way it occurred? 2 A. No. I mean, as I said, it wouldn't surprise me 3 that when we paid K-Pipe, that we paid it into a 4 Rabobank account. So, whether they characterized it as 5 an escrow account or not, I guess it wasn't relevant to 6 me. 7 Q. Well, it had to be -- there had to be an escrow 8 agreement signed, didn't there -- 9 A. Yeah, I guess there may have been. 10 Q. -- for that to happen? 11 Why wouldn't you -- why would you doubt 12 that that's the way it would be planned to occur? 13 A. I just didn't remember it happening that way. 14 Q. Okay. 15 A. Might have been a last minute requirement. I'm 16 not sure. 17 Q. Did you believe that K-Pipe had the financial 18 strength to borrow the money to buy Langley's stock 19 without any commitment or escrowed money put up by 20 Midcoast? 21 A. I remember that being a concern, but I remember 22 getting a financing letter from Rabobank saying they 23 were capable. I know that they had the loan approved. 24 Q. But as far as you knew, it wasn't conditioned 25 upon Mid --</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p> <p>1 A. I don't recall that. 2 Q. -- Midcoast putting up \$200 million in an 3 escrow account? 4 A. No, I don't recall that being a condition. 5 Q. When K-Pipe closed on its purchase of Langley 6 stock, was there a binding obligation on K-Pipe to sell 7 the assets to Midcoast? 8 A. Again, it's a timing issue. I'm not exactly 9 sure the dates, when it -- when each occurred, when they 10 signed versus when we signed. 11 Q. But it was always planned that Midcoast was 12 going to buy the assets, whether -- I mean, if -- 13 A. That -- 14 Q. -- K-Pipe would have gone through with the 15 stock purchase? 16 A. If they were capable. I mean, there was an 17 agreement in place that was executed. 18 MR. COFFIN: Okay. Let's take a quick 19 break. 20 MR. STERN: Then you're done? 21 MR. COFFIN: No. Hopefully, I'll wrap 22 things up. 23 (Recess from 2:31 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.) 24 MR. COFFIN: Let's go back on. 25 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Was your recollection refreshed</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p> <p>1 A. Correct. 2 Q. But did you deal with Mr. Whitten on this 3 transaction? 4 A. No. 5 Q. Mostly Mr. Palmisano? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Mr. Palmisano, was he a -- 8 A. Manager. 9 Q. -- manager at the time? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. And this is an internal e-mail within PWC, and 12 what's being transmitted is a notice of IRS warning on 13 intermediary transactions. Do you recall hearing from 14 Mr. Wilcox or anybody at PWC about this IRS notice? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Okay. What do you recall about that? 17 A. I recall that -- I just recall they suggested 18 that the IRS had sent this notice out. 19 Q. Okay. And did that cause them any concern? 20 Who was it, Wilcox or Palmisano? 21 A. I believe it was Bob and Tom. 22 Q. Bob? 23 A. Whitten. 24 Q. And Tom? 25 A. And Tom Palmisano.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p> <p>1 during the break? 2 A. It was. 3 Q. Okay. Do you want to comment on some of your 4 testimony? 5 A. Well, clearly, our funds were put into an 6 escrow account. 7 Q. Okay. And counsel for Midcoast showed that to 8 you? 9 MR. COFFIN: What exhibit number was that? 10 MR. STERN: It's -- 11 MS. PIPKIN: It was in -- 12 MR. COFFIN: Oh, in Exhibit 1, okay. 13 MR. STERN: Yes. It's that escrow 14 agreement we looked at yesterday, with 6.1 million. 15 MS. PIPKIN: Tab No. 6. 16 MR. STERN: But it wasn't 250 million. 17 MR. COFFIN: Wasn't 250? 18 THE WITNESS: It was 198,100,000. 19 MR. COFFIN: Okay. Good enough. 20 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Turn to 186, please. That is 21 an e-mail from, looks like, Gary Wilcox to Robert 22 Whitten. And I don't know, have we discussed Robert 23 Whitten, who he is? 24 A. Bob Whitten? 25 Q. Was he the tax partner for PWC?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p> <p>1 Q. Did they speakerphone you or -- 2 A. No, I think they came over and talked about it. 3 Q. Okay. And what did they say? 4 A. They just kind of informed me of -- of this 5 notice. 6 Q. Did they express any concerns? 7 A. Concerns? 8 Q. Uh-huh. 9 A. I guess they wouldn't have come talked to me 10 unless they had some concerns. 11 Q. Did they advise you that Midcoast would need to 12 disclose the transaction to the IRS? 13 A. They suggested that they were talking about it 14 internally. 15 Q. And how did you feel about that? 16 A. I thought that was kind of -- you know, I 17 didn't understand why. 18 Q. What was your -- why did you have a problem 19 understanding that? 20 A. Well, I -- because they -- you know, I had 21 gotten an opinion from them, et cetera, et cetera. I 22 didn't know how -- why it would have affected us. 23 Q. Were you angry? 24 A. Was I angry? 25 Q. Uh-huh?</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 142</p> <p>1 A. Well, at the time, no, they were just talking 2 about it internally. I think by the time -- you know, 3 after I'd left I think is when -- when I had heard that 4 it had, you know -- they had informed the IRS or what 5 have you.</p> <p>6 Q. When you -- when you heard from Bob and Tom, 7 did you report the matters to anybody else at Midcoast?</p> <p>8 A. I expect. I don't recall specifically, but, 9 logically, I would have talked to at least Dan about it, 10 I suppose.</p> <p>11 Q. Dan Tutcher?</p> <p>12 A. Yeah.</p> <p>13 Q. Would you have discussed with the board these 14 issues at any time after your conversation with Bob and 15 Tom?</p> <p>16 A. I don't believe so.</p> <p>17 Q. You don't think so?</p> <p>18 A. I don't think so.</p> <p>19 Q. Turn to 187.</p> <p>20 A. Because --</p> <p>21 Q. 187.</p> <p>22 A. Uh-huh.</p> <p>23 Q. This looks like at the top it's a partial 24 e-mail from you to somebody, Subject: Marlin. What does 25 Marlin stand for?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 144</p> <p>1 "I got your phone message and understand 2 the issue. My thought is that, although the notice may 3 require a disclosure of the 1999 transaction on 2000 4 filings even through," but I think it should be even 5 though, "the return is already filed, that makes little 6 sense. Since the transaction is facts and circumstances 7 sensitive, as Bob touches on below, perhaps we could 8 take a more liberal view here. I agree with Bob's 9 recommendation for further internal discussion. 10 Although I haven't been close to Richard in quite some 11 time, I would suggest that he'll ask if we've considered 12 every conceivable way to prevent these disclosures." 13 Did you ask them to prevent disclosures?</p> <p>14 PWC.</p> <p>15 A. I didn't ask them to prevent the disclosure. 16 I --</p> <p>17 Q. Did you ask them to find every conceivable way 18 to not disclose the transaction?</p> <p>19 A. I wanted to understand why it would have to be 20 disclosed if it was disclosed.</p> <p>21 Q. This says that -- Dennis indicates in the 22 e-mail that he hasn't been close to Richard in quite 23 some time. It would seem to indicate he knew you at one 24 point?</p> <p>25 A. Granted, I'm not the best with names, but...</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 143</p> <p>1 A. Enbridge.</p> <p>2 Q. And what -- how do you come -- how do you get 3 Enbridge from Marlin?</p> <p>4 A. That was the code name.</p> <p>5 Q. Oh, there were code names?</p> <p>6 A. Well, we -- we took it -- after Project Ruby, 7 we decided to start code names.</p> <p>8 Q. So, was that at the time the potential -- that 9 was the potential acquisition by Enbridge, was code 10 named Marlin?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. I see. And, okay, below that --</p> <p>13 MR. COFFIN: What did you say? That's the 14 big one?</p> <p>15 MR. CROKE: It's a big fish.</p> <p>16 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Gary has e-mailed Dennis 17 McErlean. Do you know who that is, of PWC?</p> <p>18 A. Dennis.</p> <p>19 Q. M-C-E-R-L-E-A-N?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. It says -- Dennis is writing to Gary. 22 "I got your phone message and understand the issue." 23 Oh, by the way, the subject line is Midcoast Energy 24 Disclosure Requirement for Midco Transaction. Midco is 25 M-I-D-C-O.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p> <p>1 Q. Okay. Could it be maybe he's worked at PWC and 2 worked on the audit or the tax --</p> <p>3 A. The name is just not familiar.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. And this was dated -- this was around, 5 let's see, January 26th of 2001, right? That was the 6 e-mail from Dennis to Robert Whitten and Gary Wilcox. 7 And by that time --</p> <p>8 A. What I don't understand, it says here forwarded 9 by Tom Palmisano 1-27, 2003, 8:50 p.m.</p> <p>10 Q. I have a theory on that. I don't know if it's 11 correct or not, but I think Mr. Palmisano was sending 12 that to somebody to print out for --</p> <p>13 A. This.</p> <p>14 Q. -- providing the documents to the government.</p> <p>15 A. I gotcha. Okay.</p> <p>16 Q. 189, please.</p> <p>17 A. 189?</p> <p>18 Q. Yes. It's a memorandum on Price Waterhouse 19 Coopers' letterhead or memohead to Midcoast Tax Files, 20 from Gary Wilcox and Bob Whitten, dated February 20, 21 2001, Subject: Tax Statement Disclosure Statement. Do 22 you recall ever seeing this document?</p> <p>23 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you -- did anybody at Midcoast ever 25 internally research whether the transaction should be</p>

37 (Pages 142 to 145)

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214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

Page 146	Page 148
<p>1 disclosed or did you rely on Price Waterhouse Coopers?</p> <p>2 A. We relied on Price Waterhouse.</p> <p>3 THE WITNESS: I see -- oh, Jana, were you</p> <p>4 there at that point?</p> <p>5 MS. JORDAN: (Shakes head)</p> <p>6 THE WITNESS: Oh, okay.</p> <p>7 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) 198, please. It's a letter</p> <p>8 from PWC to you, Mr. Robert, September 24, 2001,</p> <p>9 correct?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, it is.</p> <p>11 Q. From Gary Wilcox, and he's transmitting a copy</p> <p>12 of their -- of their opinion; is that correct?</p> <p>13 A. That's what it says, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. And he says, "We are in receipt of the original</p> <p>15 signed representation letters from both Midcoast and</p> <p>16 Fortrend, which we will keep in our files." And this</p> <p>17 was September 24, 2001, almost two years after the</p> <p>18 transaction took place; is that right?</p> <p>19 A. That's right.</p> <p>20 Q. Why did it take PWC so long to get their tax</p> <p>21 opinion out?</p> <p>22 A. You'd have to ask them.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you ask the question during the interim</p> <p>24 period?</p> <p>25 A. Yeah, I'd ask, "Where is my opinion?"</p>	<p>1 provide a tax opinion?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. What's a Section 338 election? You mentioned</p> <p>4 that earlier, didn't you?</p> <p>5 A. 338(h)10.</p> <p>6 Q. (h)10, yeah, what is that?</p> <p>7 A. As I recall, it's when you have a parent</p> <p>8 corporation and you can -- you can buy the -- you can</p> <p>9 buy the -- you can buy the stock, and it's represented</p> <p>10 as an asset transaction if the parent agrees to -- to</p> <p>11 represent it that way. I can't remember exactly.</p> <p>12 Q. Was such an election ever considered in this</p> <p>13 transaction?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah, Langley would -- I don't -- I don't know</p> <p>15 if it was possible because of the structure.</p> <p>16 Q. So it wasn't considered then or maybe it was</p> <p>17 brought up, but --</p> <p>18 A. Well, yeah, anything to -- to do an asset</p> <p>19 transaction was considered, but I think it may have been</p> <p>20 the structure didn't allow that to occur or he just said</p> <p>21 no. I can't remember which.</p> <p>22 Q. Government Exhibit 195.</p> <p>23 A. Do you want this back?</p> <p>24 Q. Just leave it there. 195 is a fax, it looks</p> <p>25 like, from Tom Palmisano to Gary Wilcox, dated August 10</p>
Page 147	Page 149
<p>1 Q. And what was their response?</p> <p>2 A. "Working on it."</p> <p>3 Q. And let's see. Look at 196, Government</p> <p>4 Exhibit 196.</p> <p>5 A. 196.</p> <p>6 Q. Yeah, we're in 201, so go backwards.</p> <p>7 A. Sorry, yeah.</p> <p>8 Q. Is this a copy of the tax opinion you received</p> <p>9 from PWC?</p> <p>10 A. Mine goes from 195 to 198.</p> <p>11 Q. You don't have a 196?</p> <p>12 A. Huh-uh, no.</p> <p>13 MR. COFFIN: Do you have a 196?</p> <p>14 MR. STERN: No, but let me see if it's a</p> <p>15 stapling error.</p> <p>16 Q. (BY MR. COFFIN) Here, just take mine.</p> <p>17 A. I think it's part of this, isn't it? Oh, this</p> <p>18 is -- no, this is our management -- okay.</p> <p>19 Q. 196, is that a copy of your -- the tax opinion</p> <p>20 you received from PWC?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, it is.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you do anything with that other than put it</p> <p>23 in a file, away in a file?</p> <p>24 A. That's, I believe, all I did with it.</p> <p>25 Q. Did PWC ever express to you their desire to not</p>	<p>1 of 2001, and attached to it is a letter from Midcoast to</p> <p>2 Price Waterhouse, with your signature; is that correct?</p> <p>3 A. That's correct.</p> <p>4 Q. Is this what is known as a client</p> <p>5 representation letter?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. I assume you read the -- you read the letter</p> <p>8 before signing it?</p> <p>9 A. Correct.</p> <p>10 Q. Made sure that representations were accurate?</p> <p>11 A. Correct.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you recall suggesting any changes to the</p> <p>13 letter, if it came in draft form?</p> <p>14 A. I recall a few minor changes.</p> <p>15 Q. All right. I'm going to refer you back to</p> <p>16 Government Exhibit 201, which is the handwritten notes.</p> <p>17 If you'll turn to Bates No. 1286, handwritten notes,</p> <p>18 once again, PWC. At the top, it says Midcoast,</p> <p>19 underlined, and Richard Robert, underlined. It says,</p> <p>20 "Has been a request to supply with copies of opinion."</p> <p>21 Something, "Don't provide more Q? Close, week after</p> <p>22 next. Penalty - only if no substan" -- I think it's</p> <p>23 substantial authority. And it has three choices there:</p> <p>24 conservative, average or aggressive.</p> <p>25 And then next to that, it says "prudently"</p>

Witness: Richard Robert

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p> <p>1 aggressive." Then there is a dollar amount there, 2 \$140,000. Fortrend actually paid. Don't know if 3 Fortrend got dollars from Langley."</p> <p>4 Do you remember having a discussion with 5 anybody at PWC about, I guess, assessing risk of 6 conservative, average or aggressive, and then concluding 7 that Midcoast -- or you wanted to proceed to be 8 prudently aggressive?</p> <p>9 A. I don't know what he would be referring to 10 there.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. And do you recall any discussions with 12 PWC about penalties, only if there are no substantial 13 authority?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah, I think I -- I think I asked what, you 15 know, what does this opinion do for me.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. And when would that conversation have 17 taken place? Before the closing of the transaction?</p> <p>18 A. Long time ago, yeah.</p> <p>19 Q. Before the closing, you think?</p> <p>20 A. Oh, yeah.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. And I assume Mr. Wilcox assured you that 22 their tax opinion would -- would prevent penalties from 23 being assessed?</p> <p>24 A. I believe so.</p> <p>25 MR. COFFIN: One quick break just to wrap</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding-bottom: 5px;">1</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding-bottom: 5px;">CHANGES AND SIGNATURE</th> <th style="text-align: right; padding-bottom: 5px;">REASON</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding-bottom: 5px;">2</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding-bottom: 5px;">PAGE LINE CHANGE</th> <th style="text-align: right; padding-bottom: 5px;"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">3</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">4</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">5</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">6</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">7</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">8</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">9</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">10</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">11</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">12</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">13</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">14</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">15</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">16</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">17</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">18</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">19</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">20</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">21</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">22</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">23</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">24</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: left; vertical-align: top;">25</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	1	CHANGES AND SIGNATURE	REASON	2	PAGE LINE CHANGE		3			4			5			6			7			8			9			10			11			12			13			14			15			16			17			18			19			20			21			22			23			24			25		
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p> <p>1 things up, I hope. 2 (Recess from 2:56 p.m. to 3:02 p.m.) 3 MR. COFFIN: Go back on the record. No 4 further questions. 5 Yeah, actually, let me reserve -- 6 MR. STERN: It's too late. 7 MR. COFFIN: Too late. I understand there 8 are some more documents and in the event -- 9 MR. STERN: Yeah, we've already talked 10 about that. We'll have to figure it out. 11 MR. COFFIN: Yeah, we'll figure it out. 12 I'm not going to conclude the deposition. I mean, I'll 13 conclude the deposition with that caveat, if there are 14 additional documents I haven't seen, that are new, I'd 15 like the opportunity to depose Mr. Robert again. And I 16 know that you may object to that. 17 MR. STERN: Since I gave you the 18 opportunity to hold off and I don't want to impose on 19 Mr. Robert's time unduly. 20 THE WITNESS: All right. 21 MR. STERN: Did you have any questions? 22 MS. PIPKIN: No questions. I think we're 23 done. 24 (Proceedings at 3:03 p.m.)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 153</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 I declare under penalty of perjury that the 9 foregoing is true and correct. 10 11 _____ 12 RICHARD ROBERT 13 14 15 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, the undersigned 16 authority, by the witness, RICHARD ROBERT, on this the 17 ____ day of _____, _____. 18 19 20 NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR 21 THE STATE OF _____ 22 23 My Commission Expires: _____ 24 25</p>																																																																											

39 (Pages 150 to 153)

HUNDT REPORTING
214-220-1122

Witness: Richard Robert

Page 154

1 STATE OF TEXAS
2 COUNTY OF HARRIS

3
4 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
5 ORAL DEPOSITION OF RICHARD ROBERT
6 February 1, 2007
7

8 I, the undersigned Certified Shorthand Reporter in
9 and for the State of Texas, certify that the facts
10 stated in the foregoing pages are true and correct.

11 I further certify that I am neither attorney or
12 counsel for, related to, nor employed by any parties to
13 the action in which this testimony is taken and,
14 further, that I am not a relative or employee of any
15 counsel employed by the parties hereto or financially
16 interested in the action.

17 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO under my hand and seal of
18 office on this the _____ day of _____,
19
20

21
22 _____
Laraine L. Toliver, CSR 433
Expiration: 12/31/2008
23 Hundt Reporting (Firm No. 347)
703 McKinney, Suite 207
24 Dallas, Texas 75202
25 214.220.1122;214.220.1127 fax